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NEWS SUMMARY

S. Africa reviews economic strategy
SOUTH AFRICAN officials have begun a comprehensive review of balance of payments strategy as the weakening gold price accelerates the depletion of foreign reserves. Further devaluation of the rand has been ruled out, though other protectionist measures may be taken. **Back Page**

THE URANIUM INSTITUTE, set up by 15 producers in London a year ago, has strengthened its defence against anti-trust investigations in the U.S. by recruiting the Central Electricity Generating Board, a consumer, as a full member. **Page 4**

MALAYSIA'S third five-year plan, launched today, sets an annual growth target of 8.5 per cent. Its secondary aim is to eradicate the poverty which ensues every second citizen. **Page 5**

STOCK EXCHANGE Council is likely to decide to canvass the willingness of firms to back a new market in traded share options when it considers the matter tomorrow. **Back Page**

BSC ADMITTED it was unable to meet current demand for cold reduced steel and sections yesterday.

MODERATE MONEY SUPPLY INCREASE is likely to be the wider definition (M3) has increased at an annual rate of not much more than 10 per cent, during the past three months. This is in line with the official aim of keeping inflation at 6 per cent. **Back Page**

MR. WALTER JOHNSON, Labour MP for Derby South, is tabling a Commons question to Mr. Peter Shore, Environment Secretary, urging him to make clear that the Government will not allow building societies to raise their interest rates. **Page 28**

PARIS MEETING of developing and industrialised nations failed at the week-end to agree on debt relief for the poorer countries and indexation of raw materials. **Page 5**

HIGHLAND FABRICATORS has agreed to manufacture offshore oil columns under licence to the French company, Equipement Mécanique, at Hydrant, near the Nige Bay yard north of Inverness. **Page 4**

BRITISH CAR MANUFACTURERS will probably raise prices within a fortnight due to the higher cost of imported raw materials. **Page 4**

UNEMPLOYMENT RECORD FEARED - UNEMPLOYMENT figures published tomorrow are expected to show a further rise in the unadjusted total to a new post-war record as large numbers of school-leavers are registered. **Page 4**

BRITISH LEYLAND has begun talks to persuade workers at the Alton plant at Scotstown, Glasgow, to accept the ending of lorry production in order to make way for a £21m. investment programme which converts the plant into Leyland's biggest truck and bus component supplier. **Page 4**

INSTITUTION OF PROFESSIONAL CIVIL SERVANTS is dissatisfied with the Civil Service Department's reluctance to apply the main findings of the 1972 Fulton Committee report. **Page 16**

ASSOCIATED NEWSPAPERS is well placed to maintain its level of earnings, says the chairman. The Daily Mail's larger contribution to profits represented a significant turn-about in the newspapers economic position. **Page 26**

HAMBRO LIFE Assurance prospectus for its £10m. share offer is published today. **Page 26** and **Lex**

FEATURES
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of Tyndale 25 Property 13-24

Cabinet begins task of allocating £1bn. cuts to-day

BY PHILIP RAWSTONE AND PETER RIDDELL

The Cabinet begins a critical week for the Government's economic strategy to-day with the first of a series of meetings to allocate the £1bn. cuts in public expenditure next year against opposition from leading Ministers, trade unions and sections of the Labour Party.

Mr. Denis Healey's demands for a 10 per cent cut in public expenditure, designed to boost foreign confidence and switch resources into industry, were again supported by Mr. James Callaghan, the Prime Minister, at the week-end.

"The level of public spending over the past three years cannot be sustained," he said today.

A determined resurgency action, however, will be led at to-day's Cabinet by Mr. Anthony Wedgwood Benn, Secretary for Energy, and Mr. Peter Shore, whose Environment Department is one of the main targets for economies.

Both Ministers argue, though with differing emphasis, that the Government is being forced into the Healey strategy by the expectations raised by the Chancellor's public statements.

Discussion of alternative policies has been pre-empted, they claim, and with the sympathetic support of some other Ministers, they intend to fight to ensure at least that the cuts are made with a proper sense of Labour's social priorities.

Mr. Benn's alternative strategy—based mainly on selective import controls—will also be forcefully argued with the Chancellor later to-day when he meets the party's Home Policy Committee at the Treasury.

It seems unlikely that Mr. Benn, whose chairmanship of the Committee has already been confirmed with his role as a Cabinet Minister, will attend the meeting.

One of the problems here, according to senior sources, is the apparent reluctance of the cabinet to admit anything more than a mild liberalisation of the previous partial amnesty granted by King Juan Carlos soon after becoming head of state. One of the main reasons for the extreme length of last Friday's cabinet meeting was that quite sharp differences of opinion began to emerge between members.

On economic questions the Government issued vague generalities such as reducing inflation, getting the balance of payments back into surplus, and achieving conditions whereby a social pact might be achieved.

Madrid bore the brunt of the bomb attacks in the early hours of to-day. Police reported at least eight explosions. Two night-watchmen were injured in the Ministry of Justice where two powerful bombs went off with an interval of 13 minutes. In the south of the city paramilitary Guardia Civil, alerted by the sound of a bomb, shot dead a young man who failed to stop when challenged. It was later revealed that he had a criminal record, but was almost certainly not linked with the bombings.

Other buildings to have been damaged in Madrid were the HQ of the National Movement, the only political organisation permitted under General Franco, and the multi-storey central offices of the State-run trade union system. A regional building of the union was also hit, together with the Government car pool, the official car park at the back of the central security police headquarters and a bank shop. Several parked cars were also set on fire.

Bombs went off in Government buildings in Barcelona, Seville, Bilbao and Baracaldo, while a bank and a department store were also attacked in Seville and windows shattered in El Ferrol and Segovia where attempts were made to blow up statues.

In the north-west town of Vigo yesterday five people were injured when a powerful bomb caused extensive damage to a local union building.

Police sources have revealed that most of the bombs were of relatively sophisticated design and many of them had considerable force. The fact that nearly all went off throughout the country between midnight and six a.m. suggested a high level of pre-planning. Many of the buildings attacked are always under tight police vigilance.

Still striving to build profitability, it is unwilling to make this investment at present, even with more Government aid, though it might still look at the question of a full take-over next year.

Mr. David Cole, Cambridge joint chairman and chief executive says: "We could not find a scenario between GEC and us for the take-over of AEI Scientific which did not require an excessive amount of finance. It had to be ultimately commercial and we had to see cash flow to repay a loan from public funds—some of our existing loan costs 17.5 per cent interest."

"At the moment it looks jolly unattractive. If GEC did close it down, we'd be interested in keeping alive part of the business. Also, we have suggested to GEC that they keep it going and we will look at it, again in a year."

With the collapse of the idea of a full-scale take-over by Cambridge Instrument, even with a Government backing which

Protests confuse start of Games

By Our Own Correspondent

MONTREAL, July 18. THE FIRST DAY of competition at the Olympic Games had an uncertain start to-day, plagued by politics and confusion over how many teams had withdrawn, how many might come back and compete, or would still withdraw.

In the first events the most reliable count showed something over 20 African and Arab teams pulled out. Over 600 athletes were missing from the opening parade, but some countries which boycotted the parade, such as Egypt, said they regarded that as sufficient protest against New Zealand's

strenuous efforts are also likely to be made this week to secure team union compliance if not acceptance.

The IOC economic committee meets to-morrow to discuss the proposals and expects to have a further meeting with the Chancellor before any decisions are announced.

Mr. Healey would like to make his announcement to the Commons later this week, but the timetable will depend on the strength of resistance within the Cabinet and the Government's other obligatory consultations.

Apert from political constraints, Mr. Healey also faces the problem that expectations have been built up in the foreign exchange market of cuts of about £1bn. for 1977-78 and anything less will disappoint.

It is noticeable that during the last week there has been a slight shift in emphasis in the presentation of the case for cuts by both Mr. Healey and the Prime Minister. Instead of concentrating on the need for a switch of domestic resources to boost industry and exports, there has been rather more mention of the need to ensure foreign confidence in Britain and sterling.

Other teams not in the parade were Algeria, Central African Republic, Egypt, Ethiopia, Gambia, Iran, Kenya, Libya, Mali, Uganda, the Sudan, Upper Volta, and Zaïre. Also missing were Tanzania and Mauritania, which earlier said they would not send teams because of the New Zealand issue; and Taiwan, which was not allowed to march as "the Republic of China" after Canada objected.

African teams in the parade included Cameroon, Ivory Coast, Senegal and Swaziland. For the British hockey team the withdrawals meant an eleven-hour call to Montreal in place of Kenya. The team had been on stand-by since it was first reported that Kenya intended to withdraw from the Games.

Olympics report Page 33

Crosland will seek fishing limit pledge

BY ROBIN REEVES BRUSSELS, July 18.

MR. ANTHONY CROSLAND, the Foreign Secretary, will press for a unilateral declaration of EEC member countries for a 200-mile limit by the U.K. alone would create far more problems than it solved. But it is nevertheless determined, at whatever the outcome of the UN Law of the Sea Conference—this stage anyway, to try to keep this competence limited strictly to fish.

A draft declaration of intent which appears to meet Mr. Crosland's needs in this respect was discussed last week by the Nine's permanent ambassadors to the Community.

British officials are reported to have been conducting a series of bilateral discussions in capitals of the Nine on this issue. But there is no sign of a significant reconciliation between U.K. and law is applicable to 200-mile economic zones could result in oil or gas discovered in U.K. 50 miles offshore, the Commission believes 12-mile exclusive fishing is the maximum compatible with the treaties of Rome and Accession. Politically it almost certainly represents a compromise. Other member states feel the Commission is being too generous to Britain and Ireland and stretch for an interpretation of the treaties too far.

Foreign Ministers are also due to take a fresh look at the problems raised by issuing a European passport and must complete preparations for the formal opening of Greece's EEC accession negotiations, set for July 27.

A regular two-day meeting of the Council of Agricultural Ministers of the Nine also opens here to-morrow. They are due to discuss the drought and give their first reactions to the Brussels Commission's package for dealing with EEC dairy surpluses.

Editorial Comment Page 12

Spain's reform programme brings hope—and bombs

BY ROGER MATTHEWS MADRID, July 18.

THE FORTIETH anniversary of the start of the Spanish Civil War was marked to-day by violence—nearly 30 bomb attacks in at least seven different cities. But there was also hope that the political programme announced by the new Government led by Señor Adolfo Suarez 36 hours ago would bring about the national reconciliation that it proposed.

The main opposition parties have greeted Señor Suarez's proposals with more overt interest than those of the previous Government, but with the proviso that only achievements can overcome their initial hostility at its appointment. Key points from the programme hammered out after a seven-hour cabinet meeting are the introduction of a more extensive political amnesty, a dialogue with the opposition, general elections before June 30 next year and the "conviction that sovereignty resides in the people."

The opposition is now looking for early proof that the Government has the strength and will to put flesh on its political programme. The first test will be the extension of the political amnesty, and should it fall short of expectations then the Government will have difficulty with the rest of its programme.

On economic questions the Government issued vague generalities such as reducing inflation, getting the balance of payments back into surplus, and achieving conditions whereby a social pact might be achieved.

Madrid bore the brunt of the bomb attacks in the early hours of to-day. Police reported at least eight explosions. Two night-watchmen were injured in the Ministry of Justice where two powerful bombs went off with an interval of 13 minutes. In the south of the city paramilitary Guardia Civil, alerted by the sound of a bomb, shot dead a young man who failed to stop when challenged. It was later revealed that he had a criminal record, but was almost certainly not linked with the bombings.

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Not marching

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Olympics report Page 33

Kaldor may go soon

BY PETER RIDDELL, ECONOMICS CORRESPONDENT

LORD KALDOR, the leading outside adviser to the Government, is expected to leave the Treasury within the next few weeks.

The move is believed to have nothing to do with recent economics events since Lord Kaldor, who is now 85, has apparently been considering for some time whether to leave his post as Special Adviser to the Chancellor and there have been increasingly strong rumours in the Treasury that the time is not far off.

Lord Kaldor himself refused to comment on his possible departure yesterday, but said that "it might happen" and that if it did, it would be all quite amicable.

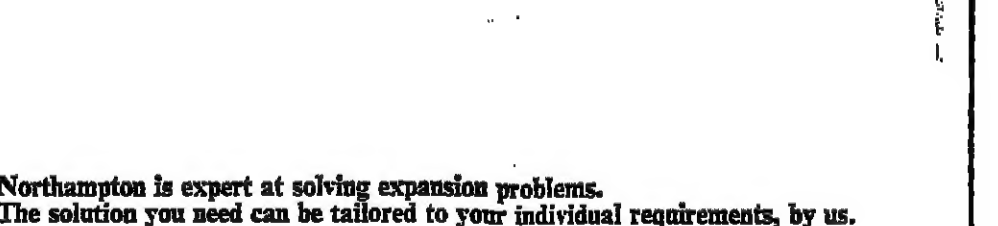
As Special Adviser both in 1964-68 and since 1974, Lord Kaldor's role has always been controversial. Although he has been rather less in the public eye in the last two years, the stock relief for companies announced by Mr. Healey in November 1974 owed a considerable amount, both in form and concept, to Lord Kaldor.

Some of his other proposals are believed to have had less wide appeal though right up to the present he is said to have been a fertile source of ideas.

During the 1964-68 period, he was involved with a series of major tax reforms, in particular selective employment tax.

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working population of England living within 100 miles radius. Major towns, ports and airports are within the same distance.

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LOMBARD

Vital statistics on population

BY C. GORDON TETHER

WE ALL KNOW that the population explosion constitutes a serious threat to mankind—that, if the number of human beings continues to grow at the present pace, the greatest difficulty is going to be experienced as we move into the closing years of the century in mobilising the resources needed to feed, house and clothe the vast numbers of the grossly inadequate living standards that now obtain over a large part of the world.

But before we can devise the most suitable ways of getting to grips with the problem, we clearly need to know a great deal more about its background. For not only does the need for restraining population growth vary greatly from one region to another and between one country and another within each region; it is also the case that the methods of implementing such a policy that would be entirely appropriate in one place could prove to be quite the reverse in another.

It is here that the World Fertility Survey comes in. This is an international research programme whose purpose is to help provide the much-needed supply of vital statistics by assessing the current state of human fertility throughout the world. And, bearing in mind how difficult it has been up to recently to get governments to start taking the population explosion issue seriously, it is encouraging to find that enthusiasm for collaborating with this project is assuming such proportions that it has every promise of proving a far greater success story than was ever envisaged.

Three aims

First launched some 41 years ago, it is being undertaken by the International Statistical Institute—whose headquarters are in Holland—with the collaboration of the United Nations Fund for Population Activities and the co-operation of the International Union for the Scientific Study of Population. And it is carrying out its task principally through promoting and supporting research in the various fields of demography, fertility, marriage, and so on, which are internationally comparable and scientifically designed and conducted sample surveys of fertility behaviour, in as many countries as possible.

Moving to the more specific, the programme has three main aims. The first is to provide the scientific information that will enable participating countries to describe and interpret their population's fertility—the obvious starting point for the formulation of any population policy. The second is to increase national capacities for fertility and other demographic research,

particularly in the developing countries.

The third is to make analytical comparisons of fertility and the factors which affect it in one different countries and regions of the world. And the sponsors of the programme make two points about this. One is that the interpretation of national data on fertility is greatly enhanced when put into a comparative framework; the other is that there is considerable scientific interest in having available comparable data on fertility for populations whose socio-economic characteristics widely differ.

Field operations are already well under way in over a score of countries. Indeed, in some cases they have reached such an advanced stage that the survey's first reports are taking shape—the data have been analysed and are usually reached about two years after the collection of the raw material is set in motion.

Arrangements for bringing other countries within the scope of the plan are well advanced in some ten countries and a similar number of countries have indicated that they would also be prepared to be recruited if some one else would put up the money required—they themselves being too poor to be able to do so. The survey's progress is now effectively the main obstacle to the continuance and eventual completion of the valuable work the World Fertility Survey is doing—the lack of money. It has already become clear that a five-year extension of its programme beyond the period ending in mid-1977 originally envisaged is going to be necessary. And present information indicates that, if financial impediments can be overcome, the exercise will ultimately embrace more than 20 advanced countries and double that number of developing states.

Prime concern

Here, then, is something that foundations and others looking for causes capable of giving value for money might well take a careful look at. And an additional point that should be made on this one's behalf is that, though its prime concern is with throwing much-needed light on the darker aspects of the global fertility scene, its work is having a valuable spin-off in the survey methodology sense. "Since," as it put it in its last report, "a repeated, approximately standardised, survey of the feedback of experience, WFS is in an excellent position to achieve a steady improvement in survey methodology." Some of its dedicated campaigners go even further than that—saying that, thanks to the breakthrough it has achieved, "survey methodology will never be the same again."

THE WEEK IN THE COURTS

Juries and identity evidence

BY JUSTINIAN

ENGLISH JUDGES display a healthy regard for the sovereignty of Parliament. But that is not to say that they invariably welcome the intrusion of Parliament into all the traditional areas of the law that courts themselves think they order well enough.

Thus the Lord Chief Justice at the annual dinner at the Mansion House last week, given to the judges by the City of London, warned of the dangers of legislation in respect of evidence of identification in criminal cases. He compared the "heavy-handedness" of legislation with the delicate touch of the judicial steersman who in each individual case can exercise a wide discretion. Lord Widgery might have been schooled by the need to explain the phrase used by Lord Wright in 1938 in an article in a leading legal academic journal, that judges proceed "from case to case, like the ancient Mediterranean mariners, hugging the coast from point to point and avoiding the dangers of the open sea of system and evidence." And this, mark you, after a crop of recent cases where the courts, both trial and appellate, have erred rather badly in convicting the innocent on false identification.

Errors

Only a few days before the Lord Mayor's annual feast for the judges Lord Widgery, presiding exceptionally over a five-judge Court of Appeal, had laid down new guidelines for the courts in the handling of identification evidence. In so doing he was giving notice that, without Parliamentary intervention, the courts adopting the fresh approach will more easily spot and avoid the errors inherent in evidence of identification. Unsuspected by Parliamentary "science," the courts will improve their track record in criminal trials where much, if not all, depends on the identification of the accused as the culprit. Will Parliament see the problem in the same light?

GLC to act on 'ghetto' housing problem

BY ARTHUR SANDLES

THE GREATER London Council is calling in minority community leaders for discussions and tightening up its letting procedures after a discovery that non-white concentrations are building up on some GLC housing estates.

Mr. Tony Judge, chairman of the GLC's Housing Management Committee, told a conference in Nottingham at the weekend that although a survey had found that a quarter of all new GLC tenants

were non-white, and 28 per cent of the borough council nominations were non-white, on 10 GLC inter-war estates in inner London some 64 per cent of the lettings went to non-whites.

The survey showed that non-whites tended to take the first home offered and there might be times when whites deliberately excluded from their preference lists, estates with non-whites on them.

Three months ago a committee under Lord Devlin had recommended to the Home Secretary that legislation was needed to ensure that the courts could be done by the courts in changing their practice. That committee's basic recommendation was that, save in exceptional circumstances, identification evidence alone should not form the basis of a conviction. The Lord Chief Justice and his judicial brethren have repudiated a radical reform and laid down its own rules, not in the abstract, but in the context of a series of actual cases that had come up on appeal.

Judges in future must always warn juries of the special dangers of identification evidence and of convicting on it if it stands alone. They should explain the need for such caution. Juries should examine closely the circumstances in which the identification came to be made: for how long did the eye-witness see the offender? Was the witness picking out somebody he had seen before, or was this the first and only sighting? How soon after the incident did the witness give a description of the offender, and did he make his identification after being aided by being shown photographs from the files of the criminal record office?

The Court of Appeal also ruled that where there was a discrepancy between the description of the accused given to the police by a witness when first interviewed and the moment of identification, the prosecution should supply the defence with details of that first description. But the court resolutely declined to go along with the Devlin Committee's thesis that identification evidence alone should, other than exceptionally, be rejected. Where the victim identified a kidnapper with whom she had spent hours or days in his company; where drug peddlers were under constant police observation; or where a fellow worker had previous knowledge of a fellow worker stealing wallets—in all these examples identification in

the particular case might well be enough. It is in the fast-moving world of a stranger engaged in robbery or mugging that identification evidence is at its weakest.

Credibility

The weakness in the Court of Appeal's approach is its own powers to correct the mistakes of the trial courts. It cannot authorise the court to re-try cases. It is for the jury in each case to decide which witnesses should be believed. On matters of credibility the court can interfere in only three circumstances.

1—If the jury has been misled by the judge as to how they should assess the evidence. 2—If the jury has been no direction at all when there should have been one; and 3—If on the whole of the evidence the jury must have taken a perverse view of a witness—but that is rare. These severe limitations are relieved only by the power to quash a conviction if the conviction is unsafe and unsatisfactory.

Here is the rub. The courts constantly assert that they have extensive experience to detect the cases that should not stand because of some spurious, irrelevant or deceptive material. The material which will be asked of the jury is: do they think that without Parliamentary intervention the courts will perform rather better in the future than they have done in the recent past?

Last week's column referred to an impending decision of the Court of Appeal on the precise nature of an unworn statement from the dock. The Court has now said that unworn statements are not evidence, such as that given by a witness in the witness box which is tested by cross examination, but is material which may persuade a jury to take a view of the case contrary to the proved evidence in the case.

*R v. Coughlan Times Law Report, May 16, 1976.

Record number of girl guides

FOR THE 13th successive year Membership of the Girl Guides Association has broken all previous records to reach the overall total of 852,439 according to figures for the 1976 census.

The increase of 17,779 members spans every section of the organisation, with the most encouraging news coming from the U.K. Brownie Guides (7-10 years) increased by 4,754 to 400,469; and Guides (10-15 years) increased by 7,661 to 318,584.

Mrs. Owen Walker, chief commissioner, said the figures were most encouraging as they prove beyond doubt that Guiding is meeting the needs of young people to-day.

Mr. Anthony Dobson is to join the Board of S. and U. STORES next month as deputy chairman and managing director. He is chairman of George Shurba and Sons, which has a 30 per cent interest in S. and U.

Mr. F. L. Potts has resigned from the Board of GARTMORE FUND MANAGERS. The Board does not intend to replace Mr. Potts as managing director, and the company will be run by the executives who have been launched on the Gartmore Funds to the public in

February, 1975. The company states that it will continue to operate as an independent subsidiary of Gartmore Investment. Some of the unit trusts which are managed by Gartmore Fund Managers will remain unchanged and the portfolio management will continue to be undertaken by the same executives of Gartmore Investment.

Mr. Silvanus Bamidele Nicol-Cole has been elected chairman of BARCLAYS BANK OF SIERRA LEONE. Mr. Nicol-Cole, who is at present deputy managing director, will take up his new duties later in the year.

Mr. Robert Gray has been appointed by STP INTERNATIONAL, a Studebaker Worthington subsidiary for the newly created position of international marketing director, concentrating initially on the U.K. and Europe. He will be based in the London area.

Mr. C. H. Woodhouse has been appointed as chairman of WOODHOUSE DRAKE AND CAREY and has been succeeded by Mr. R. E. Fisher.

Mr. S. John Woodbridge is to become chairman of the NATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF STEEL STOCKHOLDERS in place of Mr. John Annetts, who will be retiring at the end of this year. Mr. Woodbridge is presently chairman of AGW Commodity Holdings and managing director

of Ayron and Partners Hempel and Co., who AGW has agreed to re-appoint Woodbridge in the autumn. Mr. Woodbridge has been chairman of Ayron and Partners since January 1.

Mr. P. F. Worledge, appointed joint managing director of H. CLARKSON (HOLDINGS), has been appointed sales director of FOUNDRIES (EXPORT) and the company formed by the merger of the two firms, the new group, Mr. Edm. joining the company's body Holmes.

Mr. E. J. Widdows, appointed chairman of GIVAUDAN AND CO. M. S. Benson has been appointed as managing director of the company, replacing the retiring Mr. P. C. Burnham.

Mr. Robert R. Harris, Roy H. Curtis have been appointed as managing director of the company, replacing the retiring Mr. P. C. Burnham.

Mr. A. G. Jackson, appointed to the 1 MADAME TUSSEAU'S.

Prisoners aboard their own ship

By John Wyles, Shipping Correspondent

THERE ARE many more cheerful places than London's West India Docks on a Monday morning and after seven weeks at the same berth 12 seamen aboard a ship called the Mangocore are beginning to wish they were almost anywhere else in the world.

But they are destined to spend several more Mondays in the Port of London because their ship is under arrest, a casualty of Maritime Fruit Carriers' severe financial crisis.

Few of the men have ever been confined to one port for so long and all have found it a bewildering experience. There is no cargo to wait for, no sailing instructions to be plotted, just time to be served until the ship is sold by the High Court.

An Israeli-registered "reefer" (refrigerated) ship, the Mangocore arrived at the West India Docks from New Zealand on May 31 with one of the largest cargoes of potatoes, 5,300 tons, ever landed into this country. Captain Abraham Yasar and his 38-man crew knew something of MFC's difficulties—they had not been paid for two months—but they had instructions to sail to Central America after unloading in London and were prepared to keep on sailing the ship "out of loyalty to the company."

Her arrest on June 4 on behalf of Bankers Trust, an American bank with \$30m. loans to MFC, came as a complete surprise, says Captain Yasar. In the succeeding days he was forced to grapple with problems of dealing with the Admiralty Marshal, who is the High Court agent for arresting ships in British waters.

Bankers Trust, the Israeli seamen's unions and a tense and increasingly edgy crew. By all accounts, the Captain has done rather well. A 28-year-old from Tel Aviv, whose long hair and wavy moustache are slightly at odds with the surroundings of a ship's bridge, Captain Yasar emerged during June as the spokesman for the crews of the seven Israeli-flag ships.

Payment of wages had fallen behind on all of these ships and mounting dissatisfaction among the crews culminated at the end of June in an alleged act of insubordination by the captain of the Persian-owned ship, the M/V. Persian-owned ship, who ignored his instructions to unload bananas at Rotterdam and sailed straight to Haifa. Wages were finally guaranteed by the banks, seafarers negotiated and skeleton crews left to man the ship.

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Some aboard Israeli-flag ships are

APPOINTMENTS

Four executive posts in Boots

Mr. R. G. Chow, Mr. J. J. E. Ferguson, Mr. K. Jervis and Mr. P. Lewis have been appointed directors of BOOTS THE CHEMISTS, a subsidiary of the Boots Company.

Mr. Anthony J. Lister has been appointed managing director of CANTRELL AND COCHRANE (GREAT BRITAIN), Mr. Wyr Price-Davis, who took over the role of chairman and chief executive following a major Board re-organisation early last year, continues as chairman while taking up additional business commitments within the Cadbury Schweppes Group. Mr. Lister joined Cantrell and Cochrane in February, 1975, and was appointed to the Board as director of manufacturing operations in June of that year.

Cantrell and Cochrane, which markets the Club range of soft drinks, is owned jointly by Cadbury Schweppes, Watney Mann, Courage and Greene King.

Mr. Anthony Dobson is to join the Board of S. and U. STORES next month as deputy chairman and managing director. He is chairman of George Shurba and Sons, which has a 30 per cent interest in S. and U.

Mr. F. L. Potts has resigned from the Board of GARTMORE FUND MANAGERS. The Board does not intend to replace Mr. Potts as managing director, and the company will be run by the executives who have been launched on the Gartmore Funds to the public in

February, 1975. The company states that it will continue to operate as an independent subsidiary of Gartmore Investment. Some of the unit trusts which are managed by Gartmore Fund Managers will remain unchanged and the portfolio management will continue to be undertaken by the same executives of Gartmore Investment.

Mr. Silvanus Bamidele Nicol-Cole has been elected chairman of BARCLAYS BANK OF SIERRA LEONE. Mr. Nicol-Cole, who is at present deputy managing director, will take up his new duties later in the year.

Mr. Robert Gray has been appointed by STP INTERNATIONAL, a Studebaker Worthington subsidiary for the newly created position of international marketing director, concentrating initially on the U.K. and Europe. He will be based in the London area.

Mr. C. H. Woodhouse has been appointed as chairman of WOODHOUSE DRAKE AND CAREY and has been succeeded by Mr. R. E. Fisher.

Mr. S. John Woodbridge is to become chairman of the NATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF STEEL STOCKHOLDERS in place of Mr. John Annetts, who will be retiring at the end of this year. Mr. Woodbridge is presently chairman of AGW Commodity Holdings and managing director

of Ayron and Partners Hempel and Co., who AGW has agreed to re-appoint Woodbridge in the autumn. Mr. Woodbridge has been chairman of Ayron and Partners since January 1.

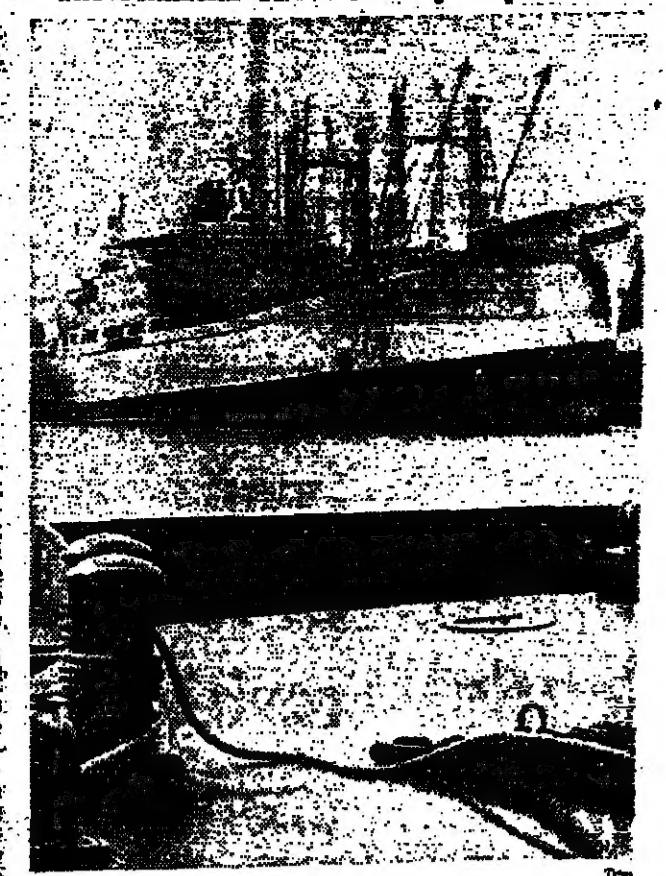
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Mr. E. J. Widdows, appointed chairman of GIVAUDAN AND CO. M. S. Benson has been appointed as managing director of the company, replacing the retiring Mr. P. C. Burnham.

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THE MANGOCORE which has been impounded by Admiralty Marshal in London's West India Docks... a casualty of Maritime Fruit's financial crisis.

All of the six other Israeli-flag reefers shared the Mangocore's fate and are now under arrest in various ports of the world. So too, are at least seven British flag reefers berthed as far apart as Bremerhaven in Germany to Kobe in Japan.

Captain Yasar admits to real problems in trying to relax his crew who knew little more of their situation than the fact that they were aboard a ship under arrest. Legal detention of a ship dates back from the earliest days of sea trading when ownership was often held geographically remote and difficult to establish.

In modern times arrest is as frequently used as a remedy by creditors trying to force an owner to meet his obligations. Many captains start the forenoon of their ship's making the necessary payments. MFC will not be able to save the Mangocore which means that brokers, appointed by the High Court, will shortly invite bids for the ship. These are not published and the highest bid above the brokers' evaluation gains the ship.

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TV Radio

* Indicates programme in black and white.

BBC 1

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Romeo and Juliet

by CLEMENT CRISP

Romances of *Romeo* at the end of last night that MacMillan's fine opportunities principal dancers to emotional and wings. Antoinette as Juliet on night after maternity partnership with Sibley's Juliet, appealed by its earnestness; the sudden girlish charm, the her classical dancer impersonation a lity in the first act. In so at last week's a development in tion came with the where Juliet must ate and her family—mmontade endemic let household who out of Juliet's bed—arm-storming were a y morning exercise, et seems to play ye of the storm her. Gesture is ousful, the feeling ough and preserved ational indecision. is fraught, and etus, but admirably effects. ered me about this its air of being too l. There is a matter ntaneous emotional kind of "taking h each other, which of the relationship v Juliet and her outh it, the piece able but uncom- the final effect of was just this. up. There is still the vulnera- bility of a girl beset on all sides by misfortune she cannot com- prehend, but the desperate energy she finds and the blaze of loving feeling, are womanly and absolutely convincing. There is no doubt about the ecstasy of this first love from either dancer. Their response to each other is sure: Eagling seems to focus his dancing on Juliet, Collier flings herself into movement with no thought save for the moment. It was this mutual response, the rapturous ardour and the poignancy of despair in the last act parting, which gave the performance its particular distinction, warming the choreography into theatrical life. From the company, very sound support. David Drew's Juliet is new, out- standingly good, a swaggering bully with a brutal sword-style to set against Michael Coleman's gadfly Mersuto who darts and stings like Muhammad Ali toying with a lumbering opponent. Derek Deane is a new and pleasing Benvolio, while Sally Ikin is as earthy and boisterous a harlot as any Veronese play- boy could wish.

nster Abbey

Organ Club

PAUL GRIFFITHS

ist is a curious t to swoon at arrays umbing and to stud ation with talk of salicidal and Lieb- t. No wonder he b to himself. The which this year a 50th anniversary, n happy with recitals at home and abroad. nages provide him non-playing fellow the opportunity to e, discuss and some- repair the objects of veneration. evening's recital, a ubilee year calendar, by the brothers i Nicholas Cleobury, cently set themselves t team. Their pro- an, however, with a Gutman's "What is the wind, what is it." This was an appo- und, swaggering com- loud enough that the nen were obliged to ke themselves heard. rifton de Westminster of course on the n Ben, was the other natic solo they in- ke no guess as to who e joined for Gustav n from D minor, a d from psalm tunes

cras Church

Cavalli's Requiem

NICHOLAS KENYON

hundred years of Mark's Venice, was in Thursday's he Sallarelli Choir, he new conductor, mas; but it wasn't e, ceremonial music ica which was pre- tled, we heard in the nolets for choir and alone by Andrea rom the 1950s), his ovanni, and Monte- in the second half the Requiem by Cavalli 1670), edited for the y Jane Glover. a year, the tercenten- lenth, Cavalli's opera revived, but not his use. Now the per- offering—and rightly all was in the service k's for no less than this Requiem, written fore his death, is a old-fashioned, almost ueen. In it he takes ilyas antiquus cliches thou with a sensuous ead from his opera- hard, Bernas inter- ressed well the intro- de of the music—the languorous Hosias, the low matic Ingelesco, but his very pointed baton technique seemed to prevent the choir from fully sustaining the lines, though its sound was lyrical. In the few strong passages, including the superbly paced crescendo from "gloria" in the Sanctus, the direction was firm and the sound confident. Here and in the antiphonal "Domine Jesu Christe," one wished the two choirs had been able to risk singing in Venetian fashion from the facing galleries of St. Pancras Church instead of being crowded together on the floor. But prudence in this matter produced some tight and dramatic overlapping entries from the two choirs, notably in the Dies Irae (where Cavalli's smooth depiction of "tremor" showed perfectly the force Venetian church music had lost since Giovanni Gabrieli's *Timor et tremor*, heard in the concert's first half). A worthwhile revival, and one which should be followed by the publication of the score: it forms a sombre memorial to the glories—fast fading by 1676—of the Venetian Republic.



Peter Barkworth and Penelope Keith

Guildhall

The Carl Flesch competition

by RONALD CRICHTON

Dora Schwarzbarg, who on Thursday won first prize and gold medal at the Carl Flesch International Violin Competition, made her official British debut on the following evening at the final concert of the City of London Festival. Once again the scene was the Guildhall and her colleagues were Sir Charles Groves with the Royal Liverpool Philharmonic Orchestra. These same musicians the previous day had fulfilled what must be among the more exhausting of an orchestra's duties—accompanying with presumably little rehearsal six young players in familiar classical concertos.

Miss Schwarzbarg is an Israeli of Russian extraction, trained at Odessa and in Moscow. As a violinist she is cast in the epic Russian mould—big tone, big lines, strong bow arm, a feeling of time for everything to be accomplished without pressing, the ability both to go leisurely and to stoke the fires without breaking the music's flow with either process. She chose the Brahms Concerto. Friday's performance was assured (though there had been the little lack of either quality before) but Thursday brought the always agreeable experience of first contact with a distinctive, mature yet still youthful personality—Miss Schwarzbarg is in her 30th year, at the upper age limit for this competition.

Albert Hall

Missa solennis

by MAX LOPPERT

The 52nd season of the Henry Wood Promenade Concerts began Friday, after a preparatory period of, apparently, more than usual difficulty. The death of Rudolf Kempe, and the inability of composers commissioned for new works to reach deadlines, necessitated late rearrangements of schedule. A more pervasive difficulty, the shortage of money, has been faced, it seems, by the comparative avoidance of those extravagantly scaled works—Mahler's *Te Deum*, Mahler's *Eighth*, Stockhausen's *Gruppen* are examples from Prom seasons of the recent past—that showed the happiest light. The BBC combination of munificence and enlightenment. There is also no visiting foreign orchestra. That said, those who love the Proms can only be thankful that the bright of tone but often raw and unlyrical of phrase.

The big outbursts were strangely without exhilaration—notes flying up, thought remaining below. This was despite the clean and confident choral singing (who shall blame the sopranos for some blanched moments above the staff?), and interesting solo contributions—the Polish soprano was leading a quartet (Anna Reynolds, Anthony Rolfe Johnson, John Shirley-Quirk) more vividly than effective as an ensemble. Mr. Davis always commands admiration for his refusal to heterologous elements from which Beethoven's Mass is so remarkably made, rather than always to forge them into a flowing, vitalising whole. For the listener this brought the advantages of a refreshed

Redbrass concerts

Redbrass is a ten-piece group playing contemporary music which can be loosely labelled "rock/jazz." With three girl vocalists, a jazz-flavoured horn section and a rock rhythm section it plays mainly out of London, in arts centres and in theatres. Starting last Saturday the band began a fortnight's work in the London area with a session at the University of London Union, Malet Street. This is being followed by appearances at the Phoenix, Cavendish Square (July 21), the Bracknell Jazz Festival (24), Hampstead Theatre (25), 100 Club, Oxford Street (26), Lambeth Jazz Festival (27), Woolwich Tramshed (29) and Dingwall's (30).

Globe

Donkeys' Years

by MICHAEL COVENEY

They are always with us, those chaps in college who debagged and defenestrated one another, jumped in the river fully clothed during Eighties Week, gleefully scooped the careless chemistry student who wandered, tie-less, into second dinner. They came down, bills paid up, jobs arranged and fully registered with any college society likely to throw a beano in 20 years time.

Michael Frayn's slight comedy gives us such a crowd of unpleasant people, graduates of the mid-fifties now occupying jobs in Parliament, the Church, Medicine and the Civil Service. One of them, K. Snell, M.A. (Andrew Robertson) arrives with a knapsack and is directed to the old rooms of one Roddy who never appears but whom the Master's wife, Lady Driver (Penelope Keith), is anxious to see. Snell works with parasitic worms and never had rooms in college, so has returned to exact some belated consolation. He remains an outsider at this private jamboree, a figure of fun who nonetheless finds himself at the centre of some farcical developments involving trousers and Lady Driver's safe conduct back to the Master's lodgings. The one positive upshot of the play is his utter humiliation and forced removal from the premises.

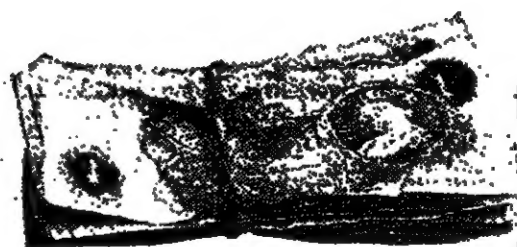
Bishopsgate Hall

Christian Zacharias

by DOMINIC GILL

The fourth recital of last week's lunchtime festival series in Bishopsgate was given by the young German pianist Christian Zacharias (b.1950), appearing in London for the first time. It was an impressive debut. Zacharias is a serious and richly talented musician, who communicates a passion for his instrument, as well as a deft and lively musical sensibility, in every bar he plays. All of the three pieces in his programme were compulsive listening—for their freshness and clarity, for their very close and vivid working, above all for their exceptional energy and vitality. No doubt that—like Andras Schiff from Hungary—Zacharias is another new young artist who shall be hearing a great deal more of soon. He began with a magical account of Haydn's F minor Variations (Hob. XVI/6), sustained by luminous inner pulse at once marvellously poised, marvellously free, every layer of the music articulated with crystal clarity. His performance of Schoenberg's Six Little Pieces op.19 was made of the same crystal firm, strong-boned playing of the greatest delicacy and refinement, each fragment pro-

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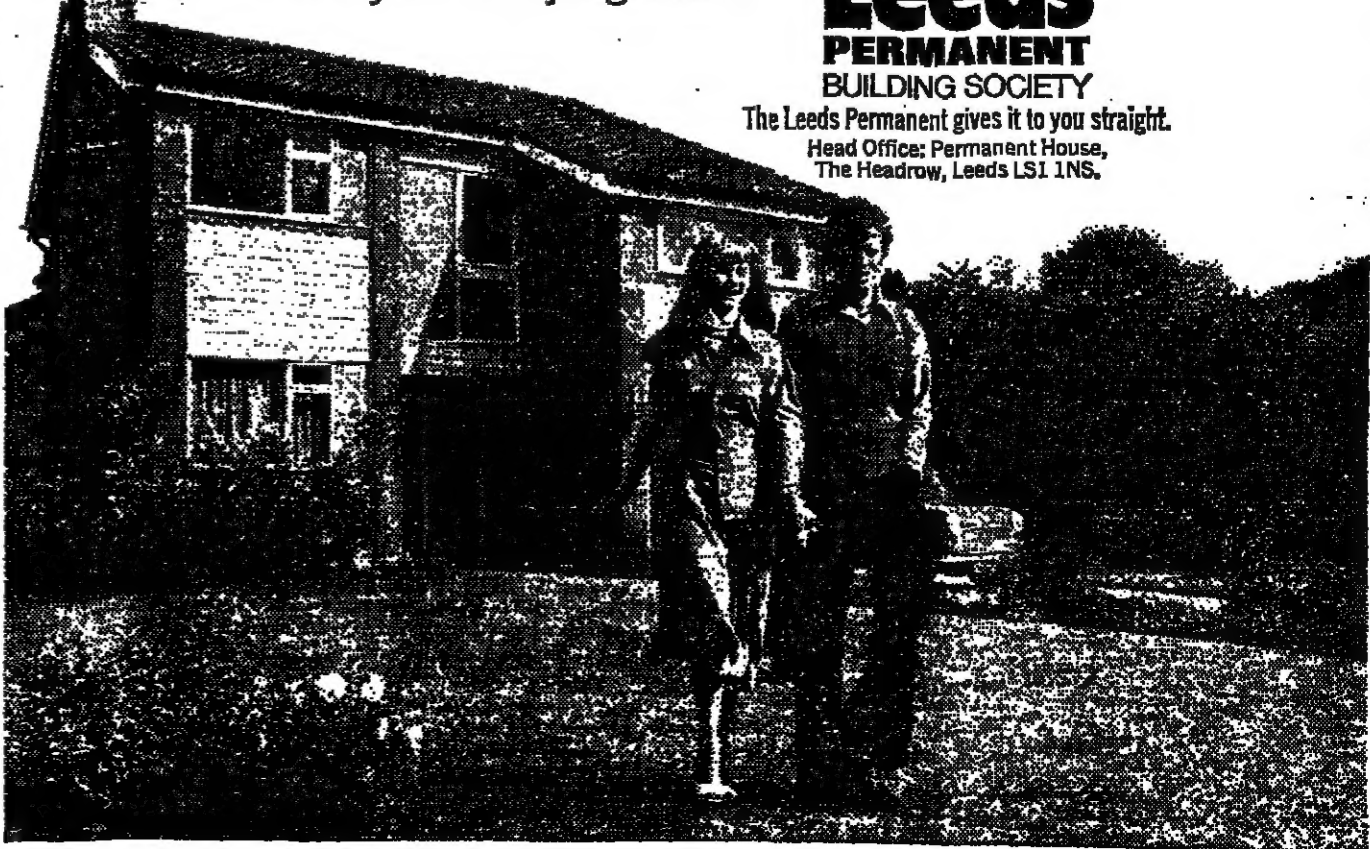
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N HİJAZI

SECRET

ERK MARTIN PRINCETON, NEW JERSEY. July 18.

Reca plotters sentenced

Death toll rises

WISH McDONALD

ATH toll from the
es in Bali last
y has now risen to
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Contributions are
to come in from the
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officials say the most
need is for medical
and tents. So far no
are known to have
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the main tourism
the south coast.
es of the number of
the earthquakes in
ra (Western New

JAKARTA, July 18. Guinea) are now being sharply reduced in Jakarta, following wild statements by government officials over the last two weeks. Newspapers here yesterday said 443 people were confirmed dead, but the number thought missing has been reduced from 5,000 to 1,500. But missionaries and scientists living in the Jayawijaya mountains h't by the earthquake dispute this estimate. They believe the total dead could be 500 or 600 with maximum death toll of about 1,000.

BY WONG SULONG

KUALA LUMPUR, July 18.

One out of every two Malaysians is poor, and the gravity of the situation can only be appreciated when one considers that since independence in 1957 to 1970, the rich Malaysians have become richer, and the poor poorer. During the period, the top 10 per cent. of Malaysian families increased their income by 46 per cent., while the incomes of the bottom 10 per cent. actually fell by more than 30 per cent. The inequality of income is widest among the Malays.

By Quentin Peel

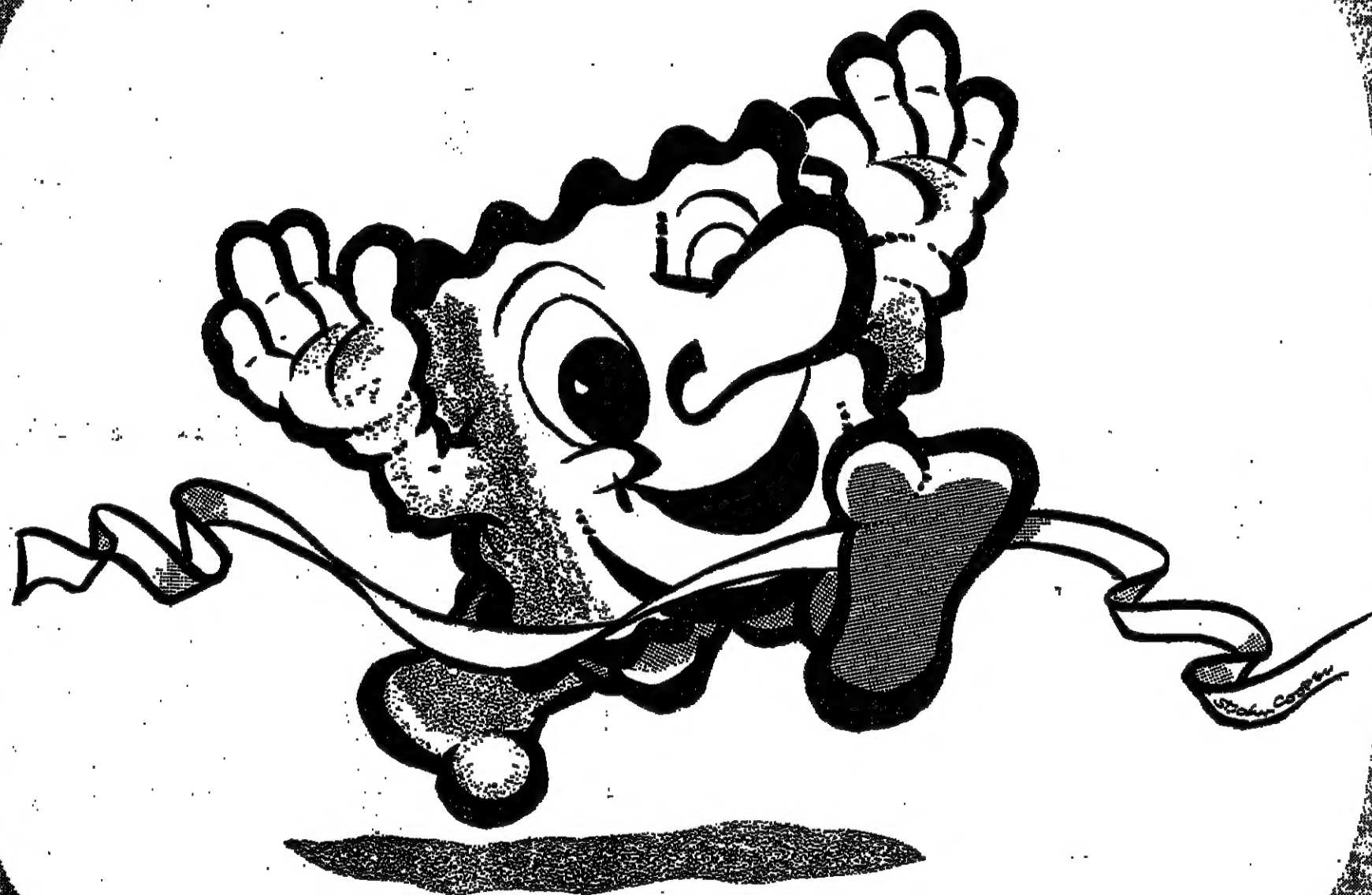
NAIROBI, July 18.

The broadcast also claimed that British, American and Israeli agents were operating on the border between the two countries.

BY RUPERT CORNWELL

PARIS, July 18.

He stressed that the deadlock did not necessarily mean the dialogue was in danger. But a joint statement from the 19 oil producers and developing nations managed only the most meagre results at a halfway "stock-taking exercise," which in effect passed the buck to the less senior delegates who have been wrangling for the past week.



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These figures are based on (1) the calorific values given in 'The Composition of Foods', published by HMSO for the Medical Research Council; and (2) the Average Retail Food Prices in the United Kingdom for 16th May, 1976, published by the Department of Prices and Consumer Protection.

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FINANCIAL TIMES REPORT

Monday July 19 1976

GOLD

The Gold market is suffering from continued uncertainty at price levels well below the end-1974 peaks. There are major unknown factors including the future impact of continuing sales by the International Monetary Fund and the extent of the support from central bank purchases.

The shine rubs off

By Michael Blanden

THE CLOSE attention which the gold market is paying to the series of International Monetary Fund auctions is a sign of the considerable change in the factors influencing the level of the gold price that has taken place over the past year. Political attitudes towards the metal and its role as an official reserve asset are playing a larger part in the market than they have for a period of several years, with the future balance between official sales and possible buying by central banks representing the most important single unknown factor over the market.

The impact of the two auctions carried out so far tended on balance to depress the price further. The outcome of the first IMF sale was felt to be slightly encouraging, with the price set at \$126 an ounce. The optimism were helped by the substantial participation of the Bank for International Settlements and by the interest shown by France and Switzerland.

Last week's second auction, however, appeared to have proved disappointing to the market. The sale had been preceded by a period of weakness in the price. And though the outcome brought more than enough bids to support a common sale price in line with the market at \$122.05, the news was followed by a further slide, taking the price below the \$120 level. This compares with a peak of \$195.5 an ounce reached around 18 months ago.

This is the somewhat ironical outcome of a series of moves which, at least in the eyes of their U.S. supporters, have been aimed mainly to take gold out of the official monetary system. In August last year it was decided that the official IMF price of gold would be abolished and that the Fund would reduce its holdings of the metal by restoring a sixth (25m. ounces or some 775 tonnes) to members

and selling another sixth at market-related prices. The proceeds of the sales are to be used to set up a fund to help developing countries.

The initial impact of this agreement last year was to act as a depressing influence on the market. The possibility of an increase in the official price of gold, which for many years had acted as a spur to speculative buying of the metal, was removed. Uncertainty over the effect of a steady flow of official sales—by the IMF and perhaps including further unloading by the U.S.—contributed to the considerable drop in the price from its peak levels reached around the end of 1974. And the market's weakness increased with the confirmation of the IMF arrangements at the Jamaica meeting in January this year.

The first serious setback was the response to the official sales in the U.S. The price rises recorded in the latter part of 1974 owed a good deal to the prospect of an important new source of demand for bullion when U.S. citizens were allowed to buy in the new year. But the outcome of the change was disappointing. It became clear that U.S. citizens were not natural hoarders of gold bars; what demand there has been has tended to be satisfied by gold coins, including Kruggerands, and the bullion dealers who had organised themselves to meet the new demand found little market for their services.

Response

The activity that has developed in the U.S. has been dominated by professional dealers rather than personal buying. And the point was underlined by the outcome of the first U.S. gold auction in January last year, when bids were received for less than half the 2m. ounces

(some 60 tonnes) on offer, and buying.

The recent review of the market by Mr. Peter Fells of Consolidated Gold Fields, for example, suggested that after mid-1975 professional investment advisers and portfolio managers generally started to cut their gold holdings.

"Typically, accounts which held 10 per cent. or even 20 per cent. of total assets in bullion have been reduced to a 5 per cent. holding or less."

The indications are that so far this year, investment buying has been negligible. Gold Fields reckoned that net bullion investment purchases totalled only 177 tonnes last year, only about a third of the 1974 figure, while Samuel Montagu estimated that speculative and investment holdings rose by about 220 tonnes in 1975, including stocks held in the warehouses of U.S. futures markets.

The decline in investment demand was enough in itself to upset the previous strength of the market in spite of changes elsewhere which might have been expected to help sustain the price. On one hand, the lower price levels led to a revival of other forms of demand. In particular, total demand for gold for fabrication purposes showed a sharp recovery last year from the depressed 1974 levels with Gold Fields putting the fabrication demand at 947 tonnes against only 795 tonnes.

This recovery owed a good deal to a revival of jewellery fabrication in the developing countries of the Middle and Far

East, where jewellery is used as a store of value and forms part of hoarding. Many of these countries had been melting down jewellery in the previous year, but last year again absorbed substantial quantities.

On the other side of the market, the supply of metal available was again reduced. The total supply to the free market, Gold Fields calculated, dropped from 1,234 tonnes in 1974 to 1,100 tonnes. The main feature of this was the continued fall in the level of non-Communist mine production to 951 tonnes, its lowest since 1953. This decline is itself a reflection of the effect of earlier higher gold

prices, particularly on South African output, which dropped for the fifth successive year to 708 tonnes.

With production capacity virtually fixed in the short term, increased prices encourage the profitable working of lower grade ores; and the continuing drop in the level of output has been one of the main factors which have encouraged the bulls of gold. At the same time last year, there was a rather unexpected fall in communist bloc sales of gold at 149 tonnes, against 220 tonnes in 1974.

Until recently it had begun to appear that the market had settled down in something like

a new equilibrium, with investment demand still low but with the prospect of a continuing reasonable balance between supplies and the offtake.

Gold Fields suggested that industrial usage and jewellery fabrication in advanced countries would be able to absorb around 750 tonnes at current prices, with coins reasonably expected to take another 150 tonnes a year. This would leave some 300 tonnes to be absorbed by hoarding, investment and jewellery manufacture in developing countries, to match supplies expected to be running at around 1,400 tonnes a year for the next three years.

The two major unknowns in this equation, however, are investment buying and the role of central banks. Private investment interest in the metal could easily be revived if there is any sign of a renewal of higher rates of inflation even in some countries, and this would substantially change the balance.

Part of the irony of the recent monetary developments is that

central banks and the IMF have an obvious interest in ensuring that the price of not knocked too hard by sales. The way in which

has handled its sucking gestures that the authorities conscious of this point. But the continuing IMF sales represents a of uncertainty which the is finding it difficult to terms with. The optimism that the interest central banks will encourage, to play a role in sustain participation at the auction.

At present, the BIS as principle only for account. But as Gold pointed out: "once the means of the articles of the IMF are national central banks legally entitled to make purchases from the BIS participate in the auction their own right." But time being there does fear to be a prospect excitement in the gold

Sluggish U.S. market

GOLD has unmistakably lost some of its glamour in the eyes of American buyers and speculators in the past year. It remains to be seen if this loss is permanent but it is certainly true that the heavy days when there was talk of a gold price of around \$300 seem a very long way away.

The marked lack of enthusiasm which greeted the first U.S. auction of gold 18 months ago when the 41-year-old ban on gold purchases by private citizens was revoked is now a matter of history. Since then the U.S. gold market has been sluggish, with occasional bursts of interest, and brief upward movements to disturb what look overall like a definite downward price trend.

There appears to be no specific reason for this relative lack of interest. To begin with it was ascribed to the high price at which the metal was originally offered, but this has been falling and demand does not seem to have picked up as much as the gold sale enthusiasts predicted. The relative improvement of the U.S. economy and the easing of inflation may also have engendered a more sanguine view of the future and reduced the appeal of gold as a hedge against disaster.

Symbol

But there is also the fact that gold is slowly losing its position at the heart of the world monetary system. The recent IMF gold sale was the most obvious example of this and a clear symbol of the Fund's oft-stated determination to move away from gold. It went smoothly, with the gold being sold at a common price very close to the then market price.

The U.S. gold market, like others around the world, largely discounted in advance the effect of this first sale, which caused scarcely a ripple on the market. But in talking to the experts it is possible to detect some indications that, as the sales continue, the effects may be more noticeable.

One of the leading prophets of caution is Mr. Edward Bernstein, a former IMF official. He said recently that no action to restore the price of gold, short of restoring a new fixed monetary price, is likely to succeed. It goes without saying that the current determination to move away from gold in international settlements makes the establishment of such a floor price very unlikely.

What Mr. Bernstein fears is that many of the speculators who have built up such large holdings of gold in the past four years may all come to the conclusion at the same time that the gold price is not going to rise, and may fall. This could touch off a wave of selling which could in turn bring the price down still further. If this happens, he says, even a hurried market-gropping intervention by central government, might have little effect.

Experts note that there remains a considerable industrial demand for gold and some point out that in the last economic boom part of the reason for the increase in the gold price was the fact that industrial users were taking all the gold available.

It is this—and the viewing of gold as just another commodity

—that the Americans are more than ever anxious to encourage, which is one of the reasons why they have so assiduously backed the IMF gold sales and other measures to reduce the international role of the commodity. It is also this which leads some Treasury folk to feel that gold is not likely to slip too far in price because of the underlying demand.

On the other hand they tend also not to see a sharp rise in the medium-term and they share the view that once gold were to go above \$130 this could trigger a wave of Soviet selling since the Russians need foreign exchange and are widely thought to have been holding off selling while the price is where it currently stands.

The U.S. has not itself held a gold auction now for more than a year and although auctions are not announced in advance any way there are no signs that one is being planned in the near future. One reason for this is that the first two sales—in January and June last year—were not very successful, but a more important factor is that U.S. gold sales are carefully coordinated with those of the IMF and it is unlikely that the U.S. would want to sell gold at least until the IMF auction pattern is a little clearer.

Gold continues to be traded on five commodity exchanges in the U.S., chiefly in New York and Chicago, and Americans are also able to trade legally on the Winnipeg exchange in Canada. But U.S. banks appear to have taken very little direct interest in the

first of the IMF gold auctions which took place in May. Only Republic National Bank, which has traditionally had a major interest in the metal, bought in any quantity and even then it only purchased some 6.2 per cent. of the gold sold.

Wistfully

Most traders look back wistfully to the days in 1973 when business was running as much as four times greater than it is now. Neither New York nor Chicago has very much business and both centres report that speculative interest in the commodity is almost non-existent.

This is partly ascribed to the success of the international monetary authorities in de-emphasising gold, but more to the "overhang" effect of the IMF and U.S. gold auctions. Dealers say that these have so dampened interest in the gold market that they feel that prices are likely to drift a little lower in the next few months.

Like the Treasury, however, they draw attention to the residual demand for gold from the industrial sector and they are also well aware that the picture could change sharply with an increase in inflation or if a feeling were to emerge that supplies from South Africa might in some way be threatened. The recent troubles there have had little effect on sentiment in New York but they have drawn attention to what some dealers see as the long-term vulnerability of gold

supplies. Developments in Africa are likely to be much more closely States then heretofore.

Last week the South Finance Minister told an audience that he felt the success of the first IMF indicated that a floor price for gold may have been and that in due course "will resume its trend." But even he was to add that central banks, the developing countries whom the gold is believed to have an interest in, are not likely to support the market at a little cost.

It remains to be seen attitude central banks as the IMF auctions. The Bank for International Settlements bid for much gold at the first auction was awarded and pre will not lose its interest American gold holders, particularly those who may have taken a large paper loss last year, will be looking closely for signs that central banks do not so much where the price is. If they think that is true, they will be more likely to liquidate their holdings rather than let them fall. It is the really worries U.S. gold and developments watched very closely months ahead.

David

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Leaner times for S. African mines

AFRICA is far and the biggest producer of the non-Communist world. It is likely to stay that way for the foreseeable future. But the Republic's production has been falling as few new mines have come along to replace the fading veterans, which started life in the 19th century.

The price of gold to close on \$200 per ounce in South Africa's production of yellow metal dropped to 758.5 tonnes from 768.1 in 1975. Last year the lowest for 14 years, and largest source of production is provided by high cost mines America which turned out 1.101 tonnes last year. Total output was 1.101 tonnes, compared with 1,000 in 1974 and 1,101 tonnes in 1975.

During 1974 proved itself a stimulus to production in South Africa because it provided the price for many mines to move of the low-grade had been previously in treat. The result while production of fully maintained, and increased, its reduced gold content was a lower metal production.

same time the rise in price of gold was still to provide sharply profits for the mines. It is the effect of these producers which has been the most vicious in the marginal category, such as East Africa and Durban. The greatest per-advance in earnings. Recently, working profits from South African producers rose by a further 63 per cent to R1.57bn. (or today's exchange rates). picture changed with the reversal in the bullion price. The gross income from the mines fell, mine working continued their inexorable and production suffered ever shortage of Black which reflected the dry-f the traditional migrant from Malawi and quo. Working profits in R1.34bn. would have been more hit but for the boost to proceeds of gold sales provided by the 17.9 devaluation of the rand the U.S. dollar in Sep. The benefits of this, are now being eroded outlasting rise in work. A major factor in this been the higher pay to the Black miners, a which together with the recruitment within

duction and earnings of the mines has been the move towards a more efficient use of labour. Before last year's sudden shortage, the mines had tended to be extravagant in their use of an abundant supply of cheap labour. Nowadays with labour neither abundant nor cheap the attitude has changed and the mines particularly want Blacks to be allowed into the higher job categories.

Dream

Increased mechanisation and improved mining methods are also being applied in the fight against rising costs. Still far away, however, is the gold miner's dream of doing away with underground blasting. Its main disadvantages are the reduction of time spent at the working face and the dilution of ore with waste rock.

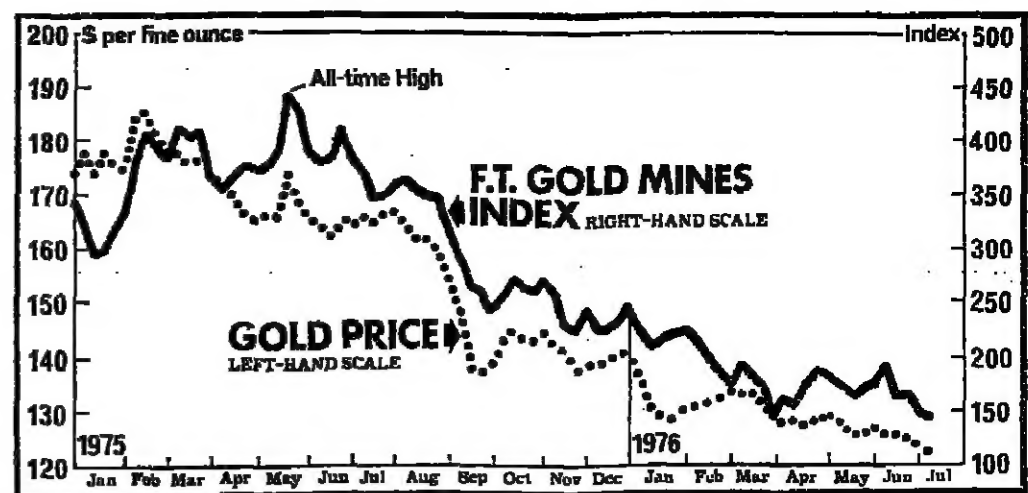
Progress has been made with the development of machines which would cut out the gold bearing reef and on a continuous basis. This would mean that mill-ore grades would rise substantially and a greater

this year and sharply reduced dividends have been the order of the day. Several marginal producers have had to fall back upon the State aid scheme, which is likely to be tightened up now. Future aid will go only to those producers which can increase output and hold out the prospect of returning to profitability.

For the still prosperous mines there is now the heavier burden of taxation to be carried. The April budget raised the surtax payable by the gold mines from 5 per cent to 10 per cent, and lifted the loan levy (which need not be repaid by the Government for seven years) from 5 per cent to 15 per cent. These charges are applied to the basic tax arrived at under the mines' sliding scale formulae. It means that total tax and lease payments previously made to the State of between 82 per cent, and 68 per cent of profits now move up to a range of 68 per cent to 76 per cent.

Another dampening factor from the point of the U.K. investors remains the surrender of 25 per cent. of the dollar premium in the price of an overseas share when it is sold. This has severely restricted the London market in Gold shares to the point at which there are now only two firms of jobbers dealing in them. Indeed, one of these firms is now thinking of pulling out.

Despite the various bearish factors, it would be a brave, or foolhardy, investor who would write off gold and gold shares.



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Christopher Hill

Coin demand negligible

FOR THE PRIVATE investor in the U.K. gold has virtually ceased to exist as a popular investment medium over the past 18 months. Whereas in late 1974 a host of dealers in gold coins crept from the rafters to unload their stocks on to a panic-stricken public, the situation who remain in the field report that at the moment there is negligible demand for the once popular Kruggerand and there is a similar malaise in the "old" and "new" sovereign markets.

Where old sovereigns are concerned any demand that has appeared has come from the jewellery business and the Kruggerand (which hit a peak of £100 a coin in late 1974) now retails domestically at around £70—very little different from the international level and representing only a slight premium on the gold content of the coin. Kruggerands tend to be used as a rule of thumb in this market for they have no value for collectors and at 1 oz. of fine gold per coin are strictly comparable to the gold price and are as close to holding bullion as a U.K. investor can get.

Perhaps the greatest motive for going into gold as an investment was "fear" in that in the inflationary conditions of

1974 there was a feeling on the part of many investors that the traditional forms of protection such as equities and property had become no better than fixed interest at warding off the dwindling purchasing power of paper money. Worse still, with equity and property markets in a parlous state everywhere it seemed as if total collapse might not be far round the corner. This was where gold came in from the wings as the one ultimate (and transportable) store of value.

Susceptible

The fever reached its highest just as world stock markets were on the turn and a sharp downward kick came with the first of the U.S. Treasury's gold sales, in January, 1975. Far from being a sell-out as everyone predicted, the sale proved that the U.S. citizen was relatively uninterested in holding gold as an investment and was susceptible to the anti-gold propaganda of his Government. From then on the rot set in with the pick-up in stock markets and gradually the institutions (which had been big holders of gold as a "hedge") began to pull out. There was a brief revival of interest in the U.K. when the Government put the bar up

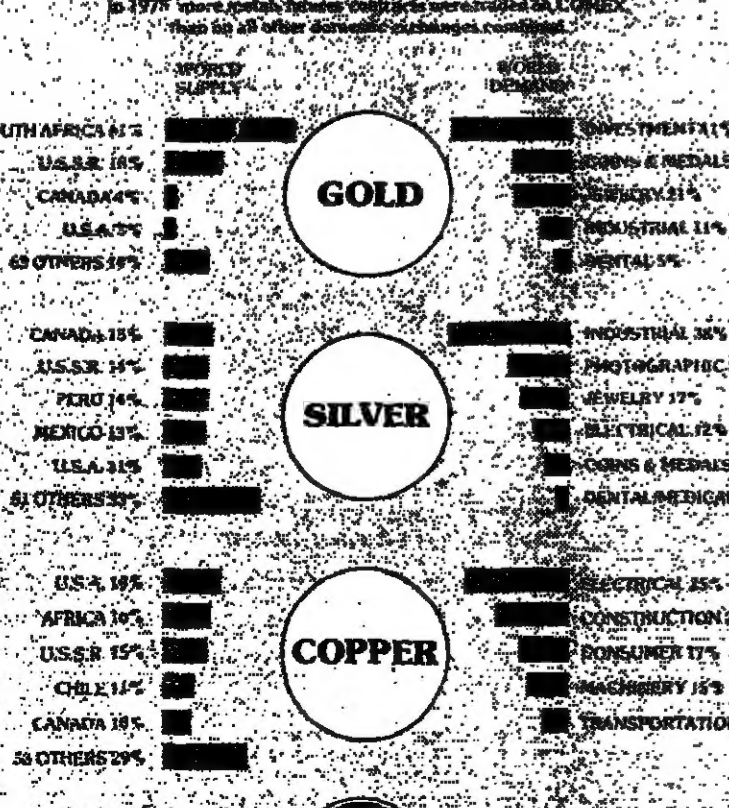
against fresh imports of Kruggerands — leading to a brief latest marketing efforts with the R2 coin—with a limited annual mintage—South Africa is openly trying for a numismatic value. So where does this leave the U.K. investor? Many professional advisers made the useful point when Kruggerands were in their heyday that they were best managed by professionals as a flexible part of a larger portfolio. Of course sometimes the professionals were no wiser than individuals but on the whole it has proved correct that more individuals have lost by buying gold coins for short-term reasons than have gained. The devaluation of sterling has helped out the sterling value of Kruggerands recently but the coin area has been relatively unexciting. Remembering that investors need to buy at least 10 coins in order to be able to sell them back at the prices quoted in newspapers, I feel that gold coins are for either the investor who wants to take a definite view in quantity or to hold a few as a long-term insurance. But for the former there are more exciting hunting grounds at the moment in the various commodity fields.

Weighed

The point is that at present there is insufficient incentive for individuals to use gold as the "funk hole" which it has been aptly described. While it is true that the renewed currency crisis should have improved the appeal of gold, the other factors have weighed more in the balance. Even in the U.K. inflation seems to be coming down and it would need worries about fresh inflationary pressures on a world-wide scale to re-establish gold coins as a prime investment for the average investor. Meanwhile there are greater attractions in equity and commodity markets.

This is not to say that gold may not have its day again. Investors are more prone to take a short-term view of their holdings than once was the case and the South African Chamber of Mines (admittedly with an axe to grind) takes a relatively optimistic view in a recent encephalic. Apart from pointing to an upsurge in the industrial demand for gold and a renewal of "hoarder" demand in the Far East, it rams home the fact that despite all the problems in the U.K., the U.S. and (more recently) in West Germany, sales of Kruggerands actually increased by 50 per cent. in 1975. But it is likely that the monthly trends are

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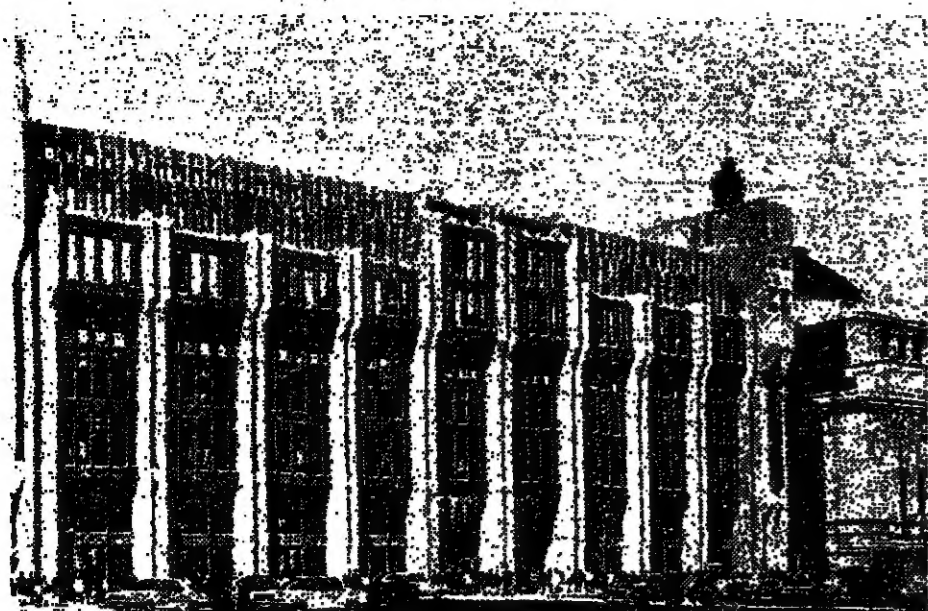
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Building and Civil Engineering

1½m. London office block £5m. waste water plant



contract worth about square feet. Elevations will be slope and Colis has clad principally in anodised aluminium double glazed curtain walls but the corner staircases are to be in Portland stone. Additionally the columns facing Totihill Street—the facade—will feature cladding of Portland stone-faced precast concrete units.

drives work in dle East

award by the Water Authority of the Emirate of Ras al Khaimah, national is making a mission of its activities in the East.

the main contractor, actions to execute the s. These cover a sea n 1.7 metres diameter metres long, pump- nine and boiler house, concrete culverts and in- pany's sub-contractor, Company (Lebanon), this for installations to power house, water area, oil tank farm, and service roads, as started on this pro-

Keeps heat out of buildings

AS BRITAIN swelters in its second consecutive "tropical" summer, and "experts" predict that this could well be the norm, there is growing interest in the U.K. in methods of reducing internal temperatures of buildings, especially in the working environment.

One method—developed in this country by Liquid Plastics, of Preston—is the treatment of roofs with Decadex, a solar reflective weatherproofing membrane, which, by reducing thermal transmission to the roof structure, has been proved in tests to reduce internal temperatures by as much as 38 per cent.

Decadex, an elastic, plastic, self-cleaning membrane which can be applied either by brush or spray, provides an enormous expansion co-efficient, enabling it to expand and contract with both thermal and structural movement in the substrate. It is highly resistant to ultraviolet radiation.

When used in conjunction with Flexitape, also produced by Liquid Plastics, Decadex can effectively bridge expansion joints and cracks, providing an unbroken seal over the entire roof, and, since the expansion coefficient of the products are complementary, maintaining elasticity at these vulnerable points. Liquid Plastics, London Road, Preston, Lancs. (0772 59781).

£2m. water projects

JOHN Laing Construction, Engineering Division, has just started work on contracts totalling over £2m. from the North West Water Authority.

The larger contract, worth over £1m, is for the construction of an intake works and pumping station on the River Wyre at Garstang, Lancs. Construction will be of in situ concrete with the pumping station mainly below ground adjacent to the river and the intake structure and control weir in the river itself.

Hospital services

Andrew-Weatherfool, part of the Powell Duffryn Group, has won a contract worth nearly £3m. for the provision of mechanical services, plumbing and air-conditioning in the Bangor District General Hospital, Bangor, in North Wales. It is being built for the Welsh Health Technical Services Organisation and overall responsibility and design is by the Hospital Design Consortium comprising architects S. W. Milburn and Partners, quantity surveyors W. T. Hills and consulting engineers W. S. Atkins. Main contractor is Kyle Stewart.

Automated effluent treatment

BRITAIN'S first computerised effluent disposal system is to be brought into operation in the near future by the British Steel Corporation.

The efficient comes from coke ovens on the Ravenscraig site and it is to be collected and pumped to the nearby Carruburn treatment works of the Strathclyde regional council. Operations will be supervised by £125,000-worth of computerised telemetry equipment to be supplied by Serck Controls of Lenington Spa.

Information input will come from seven outstations and include data from weirs and V-notch flumes, etc. The complex sequence of instructions involv-

ing flows, aeration and lime treatment of the effluent will all be under the automatic control routine.

£34m. homes for council estates

TWO CONTRACTS together worth £34m. to build council estates in Stockport and Nottingham, have been awarded to Rowlinson Constructions.

The invention, officially named "Kværner Myren trenching system," is the result of an initiative taken four years ago by the Norwegian State's Committee for Deep Water Pipelines, which commissioned Kvaerner to study the feasibility of burying pipelines at great depths. The Committee found the concern's first ideas on the subject sufficiently interesting to commission further research, and the project was later joined by Statoil, Norsk Hydro and the Norwegian Technical and Scientific Research Council. Each of these three

The Nottingham contract, worth £25.7m, is for 228 houses and 57 flats at Kirkstead Road, in the Meadows area of the city. Work will start in August, for completion in November 1978.

In Harrogate Road, Reddish, Stockport, Rowlinson will start work this month on a £870,000 scheme to build 45 houses and 26 flats for Stockport Borough Council. It follows an £855,000 contract for 103 council houses at Stockport, which the firm started in March.

Trenching in deep water

NORWAY'S Kvaerner engineering concern has designed a remote-controlled machine for digging pipeline trenches on the sea bed. A small-scale model of the machine, which would enable oil and gas lines to be buried beneath the sea bed at depths of up to 500 metres, was recently tested in the Drammen Fjord, near Oslo, where it successfully buried a 12 centimetre line, 150 metres long.

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Computer centre

THE Scottish Trustee Savings Banks Computer Consortium has placed a £850,000 contract with a Bovis company—Gilbert Ash Scotland—for a computer centre at Anderson, Glasgow.

Covering an area of 1,900 square metres, the building will be of steel frame construction with external walls of facing brick with pre-cast concrete cladding. Parapet and windows will be of bronze coloured anodised aluminium while the roof is to be part pre-cast concrete slabs and part ribbed metal decking with built-up felt roofing.

Design cost cut by automation

MANIPULATION of mathematical models of structures in computers to see how the corresponding buildings would behave in severe earthquake or hurricane conditions has been one of the glamour projects of computer-aided design (CAD).

But CAD is not just a glamour application of computer techniques. It is paying off as a down-to-earth routine in many areas of building and civil engineering, one of which is typified in the project recently brought to fruition between the CAD Centre, Cambridge, and Capper Neill International.

Primary objective of the joint work was to simplify the design, costing and blueprint production routines and automate them to a degree such that the corresponding program suites could be used in part or as a whole, according to the information needed at a particular moment.

The various steps included the production of a program to design the layout of steel plates for base and roof of a tank in

accordance with BP2854 and API650 and add a program to optimise on the quantity of steel used in both base and roof and derive routines for the automated draughting of base, shell, roof and material usage. Finally, a suite was added to generate estimating data covering the number and weight of steel plates and the total weld lengths.

This first stage is fully operational. Only the sections needed for a particular job are used so that the designer is not constrained and computing costs are cut.

At the tendering stage, several designs can be tried out very quickly, while the cost for obtaining pricing information for base or roof details is below 20p per design, the information being available virtually on demand, and including full optimisation on minimum steel usage and the amount of welding required.

If the tender is successful, all that follows is an instruction to the computer in Cambridge to produce working drawings on a high-speed draughting machine.

These will show the cross-section through the shell and weld details. Materials schedules are produced according to a program developed internally by the company itself.

Details of costs are extremely interesting in the light they shed on other areas of building and civil engineering design work. Production cost of a full set of drawings depends to some extent on the size of the tank, but generally would lie between £13 and £25 for each drawing for a tank of 50 metres diameter. This is considerably less than the cost of using manual methods. At the same time, presentation is standardised and production of the drawings on the plotter is extremely reliable.

Drawings are normally produced in the same day the design is started, which gives the fabrication team much more time to plan its work schedules. Previously a design would require between three and six days of effort. Now a designer can produce, typically, drawings for eight tanks in less than one day.

GK TorBar
Now in 50mm dia.
GKN (South Wales) Ltd
Caele Works, Cardiff
Tel: 0222-330323
Telex: 493116
A member of GKN (United Kingdom) Limited

Housing in new town

CUMBERNAULD Development Corporation has awarded a £3m. contract for the Westfield 1 (Housing) development to Miller Construction (Northern). This is the second housing development in the town's extension area and includes 313 terraced houses of single and two storeys. The housing will accommodate about 1,400 people, with completion expected around two years after the commencement of work in August.

IN BRIEF

SIX CONTRACTS, totalling nearly £800,000 have been won by FPA Finnegan. They include a block of flats at Sheffield, for the Hallam Housing Society, a factory at Rotherham for the English Industrial Estates Corporation and an office development for the North East Derbyshire District Council at Saltergate, Chesterfield.

SIGMUND PULSOMETER Projects is to supply and install seven vertical crude sewage pumps together with control panels and ancillary equipment in two pumping stations for the Northampton Sewage Division of the Anglian Water Authority.

GIBSON, LEA and Company has won eight contracts worth about £250,000 mainly for refitting and conversion work.

BIGGS WALL and Company is to construct a 1m. gallon capacity reinforced concrete reservoir, together with an underground pumping station, at West Bergholt, near Colchester, Essex, under a £150,000 contract awarded by the Anglian Water Authority, Colchester Water Division.

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BRANCHES NATIONWIDE

VÖEST-ALPINE

Auszug aus dem Jahresbericht 1975

VEREINIGTE ÖSTERREICHISCHE EISEN- UND STAHLWERKE — ALPINE MONTAN AKTIENGESELLSCHAFT

Aktiva		Bilanz zum 31. Dezember 1975		Passiva	
		in Mio S			
I. Anlagevermögen:				I. Grundkapital	3.140,0
Sachanlagevermögen	15.491,4			II. Gesetzliche und freie Rücklagen	4.173,9
Finanzanlagevermögen	3.138,0	18.627,4		(davon gewidmet für § 10 ESIG 1972 1.110,5 Mio S)	
II. Umlaufvermögen:				III. Bewertungsreserve aus steuerlichen Sonderabschreibungen	4.974,5
Vorräte	8.169,2			IV. Vorsorge für Abfertigungen und Pensionen	3.982,2
Von der Gesellschaft geleistete Anzahlungen	1.098,1			V. Rückstellungen	2.097,6
Waren- und Konzernforderungen	7.180,3			VI. Verbindlichkeiten:	
Flüssige Mittel (einschl. Wechsel und Wertpapiere)	1.568,7			Verbindlichkeiten aus langfristigen Krediten und Darlehen	10.051,9
Sonstige Aktiva	730,9	18.747,2		Andere Verbindlichkeiten	8.972,5
				VII. Reingewinn:	
				Gewinn des Geschäftsjahres	1,6
				Gewinnvortrag aus 1974	0,4
					2,0
					37.374,6

Aufwendungen		Gewinn- und Verlustrechnung für das Geschäftsjahr 1975		Erträge	
		in Mio S			
1. Personalkosten (einschl. Zuweisung an die Vorsorge für Abfertigungen)	8.161,9			1. Gewinnvortrag aus 1974	0,4
2. Abschreibungen	1.472,9			2. Rohüberschuß (nach Organschaftsabschreibung)	9.342,0
3. Aufwandszinsen	939,7			3. Erträge aus Beteiligungen	62,7
4. Steuern und Beiträge an gesetzliche Berufsvertretungen	310,6			4. Ertragszinsen	620,8
5. Inanspruchnahme des § 10 ESIG 1972 — Investitionsfreibetrag	513,7			5. Außerordentliche Erträge	945,8
Teilwidmung der freien Rücklage	513,7				
6. Außerordentliche Aufwendungen	64,6				
7. Reingewinn:					
Gewinn des Geschäftsjahres	1,6				
Gewinnvortrag aus 1974	0,4				
					10.971,7



Der VÖEST-ALPINE-KONZERN im Zahlenpiegel

	1974	1975
Fremdumsatz (in Mio S)		
Inland	15.062	12.522
Ausland	23.128	25.818
Gesamt	38.190	38.340
Beschäftigtenstand (zum 31. 12.)	84.275	82.002
Produktion (in t)		
Braunkohle	2.590.700	2.437.200
Rohrsta	4.245.400	3.839.000
Koks	1.733.400	1.606.600
Rohstahl	3.443.100	3.055.300
Rohstahl	4.482.400	3.889.000
Walzstahl	3.136.000	2.652.400
Investitionen (in Mio S)	3.587	3.419

Businessman's Diary

U.K. TRADE FAIRS AND EXHIBITIONS

Date	Title	Venue
Current	Brighton Antiques Fair (cl. July 24)	Corn Exchange, Brighton
Current	Hairdressers and Beauticians Fair (cl. July 20)	Royal Lancaster Hotel, W.2
Current	Harrogate Gift Fair (cl. July 22)	Harrogate
July 20-22	Royal Welsh Show	Builth Wells
July 20-22	International Cycle Show	Harrogate
July 20-22	General Trade and Home Exhibition	Alexandra Palace, Doncaster
Aug. 7-8	British Musical Instrument Trade Fair	Bloomsbury Centre Hotel, Olympia
Aug. 15-19	International Gifts Fair	Metropole Centre, Brighton
Aug. 21-29	Brighton International Exhibition	Holland Park School, W.3
Aug. 24-26	Education & Technology Exhibition	

OVERSEAS TRADE FAIRS AND EXHIBITIONS

Date	Title	Venue
Current	Photogrammetry Exbn. and Congress (cl. July 23)	Helsinki
Current	National Boat Show (cl. July 25)	Malbourne
July 21-23	Int. Sports Equipment and Leisure Goods Exbn.	Singapore
July 24-28	International Jewellery Trade Fair	New York
July 25-31	Int. Biochemical Exbn. & Congress	Hamburg
July 31-Aug. 8	International Arts and Antiques Fair	Helsingborg
Aug. 3-10	Int. Building and Construction Exhibition	Johannesburg
Aug. 5-14	Royal National Show	Brisbane
Aug. 6-11	International Boat Show	Klagenfurt
Aug. 8-18	Austrian Timber Fair	Tromsø
Aug. 9-15	International Fisheries Fair	Bilbao
Aug. 12-22	Consumer Goods Fair	Malmo
Aug. 13-22	Education Equipment Exhibition	Sao Paulo
Aug. 15-20	New York Gift Show	New York
Aug. 17-19	National Hardware Show	Chicago
Aug. 21-23	Pacific Jewellery Show	Los Angeles
Aug. 23-26	Jerusalem Fashion Week	Jerusalem Hilton
Aug. 26-30	Overseas Import Fair	Berlin

BUSINESS AND MANAGEMENT CONFERENCES

Date	Title	Venue
July 20	Offshore Centre: Saudi Arabia, Oman & U.A.E.	Royal Cdn. Hotel, W.3
July 20-21	WTI: Platoon Industrial Relations	Wentworth Trade Centre, E.1
July 21-22	Boards: Developing Oases Trade	Henley
July 22	First Nat. Bk. of Boston: Export Promotion	Royal Lancaster Hotel, W.2
July 23	Oyez: Exchange Control	Royal Lancaster Hotel, W.2
July 24	Industrial Soc. Action-Centred Leadership	Peter Runge House, S.W.1
Aug. 9-13	Abraham: Synthesis-Problem Solving and Managing	68, Churchway, N.W.1
Aug. 9-13	H. Mitchell: Motivation, Incentives & Commn.	Seeston, Nottingham
Aug. 11	BIM: Selection Interviewing, Theory & Practice	Management Hse., W.C.2
Sep. 1-2	Financial Times: World Aerospace	London Hilton, W.1

Parliament this week

COMMONS	SENATE
TODAY: Finance Bill remaining stages; EEC document on the 1977 preliminary draft budget.	TODAY: Finance Bill remaining stages; EEC document on the 1977 preliminary draft budget.
TOMORROW: Timetable motions on the Aircraft and Shipbuilding Industries, Dock Work Regulation, Education, Health Services and Rent (Agriculture) Bills.	TOMORROW: Sexual Offences Bill, Drought Bill and Race Relations Bill, second readings.
WEDNESDAY: Education Bill, remaining stages.	WEDNESDAY: Land Drainage Bill, remaining stages.
THURSDAY: Rent (Agriculture) Bill, remaining stages.	THURSDAY: Land Drainage Bill, remaining stages.
FRIDAY: Parliamentary and Other Pensions and Salaries Bill, remaining stages.	FRIDAY: Land Drainage Bill, remaining stages.
MONDAY (July 26): Dock Work Regulation Bill, remaining stages.	MONDAY: Land Drainage Bill, remaining stages.
LORDS	
TODAY: Debate on the White Paper "Developments in the European Communities, November 75 to April 76," and	

Bank workers switch jobs to boost pay

BY ARTHUR SANDLES

BANK STAFF in the City are on the move — thanks to the present pay policy. An investigation of the banking employment market has shown that vacancies in banking have doubled since the year began largely because people are changing jobs as the only way to get more pay.

The report — the 11th Banking Personnel Survey, published by the incomes research unit of personal consultants, Lloyd Executive, says the new mobility was found in all types of banks and was "by no means confined to the traditionally high-turnover clerical and secretarial jobs." About 20 per cent of the vacancies were for professional and executive personnel.

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THE JOBS COLUMN

Do it yourself, Mr Booth

BY MICHAEL DIXON

THERE WERE days, no doubt, during Diogenes' search for an honest man when he was sorely tempted to bend the rules, paste the award on the first passer-by with a level gaze, and go home to his barrel to read comic papers over a quart of ozo. Certainly I am reaching a like stage in my search for official proposals within my journalistic interests which are not either ill-livered, apple-pie, greedily-gutted, or some combination thereof.

So welcome was definitely in the office the other day when I received a set of proposals published jointly by the Department of Employment and the Manpower Services Commission, entitled *Training for vital skills*.

The aim of these proposals is important for all of us. It is to break the cycle by which cuts in industrial training during a recession leave us short of the skilled manpower needed to take adequate advantage of the ensuing expansion. The results include lengthening delivery dates, wage inflation and other miseries which have become so ingrained in some companies' psychology that they anticipate them by planning their production at levels less than expanding markets would evidently justify.

The joint document — which I know is largely the work of the Training Services Agency — describes the mayhem and the arguments for stabilising the intake of youngsters into training for the crucial types of skill at numbers permitting steady expansion. And since it does so with a persuasion that only a chuckle-head could resist, it was soon looking forward to declaring my search completed and going home to a snifter at my borrowed barrel in Clapham.

But then I remembered a

Compulsory workers' role criticised

By Arthur Sandles

COMPULSORY worker participation and representation on company Boards would threaten industry's capacity to raise new capital, says the Conservative Selwyn Group in its evidence to the Bullock Committee on Industrial Democracy.

According to the Group's evidence such moves, with no changes in financial responsibility, if forced upon shareholders whose funds are at risk, "will be wholly unacceptable." It would be "institutionalised theft."

LABOUR NEWS

Ford Motor conveners set to join pay talks

BY ROY ROGERS, LABOUR CORRESPONDENT

FORD MOTOR union conveners tentatively "as of right" This are set to join future pay and working conditions negotiations for the company's 52,000 manual workers who expect their next annual increase in October.

But the move is being delayed by inter-union wrangling over how much say the craft unions should have on the joint work committees.

The production worker-orientated Transport and General Workers Union, which dominates the Ford union scene by virtue of its majority membership—it claims some 40,000 members at Ford—has been seeking to bring conveners on to the national joint negotiating committee for several years.

However, the smaller craft-based unions are wary of this move because it would give the TGWU—which currently fills 18 of the 21 convenerships—an even greater stronghold on negotiations.

In a bid to offset some of this TGWU domination, the craft unions have been striving for several places on joint work committees for skilled repre-

Reform proposals ignored, say civil servants

BY OUR OWN CORRESPONDENT

FUNDAMENTAL dissatisfaction at the Civil Service Department's reluctance to act on the main findings of the Fulton Committee report on the Civil Service is expressed to-day by the Institution of Professional Civil Servants.

In evidence to the Commons select committee on expenditure, the IPCS accuses the CSD of only limited implementation of the 1974 report's findings which included criticism of the higher Civil Service.

The IPCS, which represents 100,000 professional and technical grades, believes the Fulton findings to be "essentially right" and calls for changes in the relationship between the service and the community, including moves towards more "open" government.

An end to the "divisive and wasteful practice of making distinction between the roles and opportunities of 'specialists' and 'generalists' is also urged.

Shop stewards resign over dock vote

BY OUR LABOUR CORRESPONDENT

TWO LEADING Felixstowe move in the wrangle over dock shop stewards have resigned in protest at the vote to support the nationalised British Transport Docks Board and follow the port to a standstill for to-day.

Mr. Paddy Abern, the senior TGWU shop steward, and Mr. George Landless, have resigned their posts claiming that the strike was rigged.

This bitterness is the latest

WEEK'S FINANCIAL DIARY

The following is a record of the principal business and financial engagements during the week. The Board meetings are mainly for the purpose of considering dividends and official indications are not available where dividends concerned are interims or final. The sub-division shown below is based mainly on last year's time-table.

COMPANY MEETINGS	English Association of American Bond and Shareholders	South African Bond and Shareholders
TODAY:	11.30 Anglo-American Bond and Shareholders	11.30 Anglo-American Bond and Shareholders
Monday:	11.30 Anglo-American Bond and Shareholders	11.30 Anglo-American Bond and Shareholders
Tuesday:	11.30 Anglo-American Bond and Shareholders	11.30 Anglo-American Bond and Shareholders
Wednesday:	11.30 Anglo-American Bond and Shareholders	11.30 Anglo-American Bond and Shareholders
Thursday:	11.30 Anglo-American Bond and Shareholders	11.30 Anglo-American Bond and Shareholders
Friday:	11.30 Anglo-American Bond and Shareholders	11.30 Anglo-American Bond and Shareholders

Entertainment Guide

THEATRES	OPERA & BALLET	CINEMAS
AMAZONS AND SACRED FLUTE Theatre Royal, Plymouth A new production of the opera by Michael Tippett, with a libretto by the composer. The story is set in the Amazon rain forest and tells of the adventures of a young man who falls in love with a girl who is a member of a tribe of Amazonians.	THE ROYAL OPERA Royal Opera House, Covent Garden Tonight: <i>The Barber of Seville</i> . The opera by Rossini, with a libretto by C. C. Zappi. The story is set in Seville and tells of the adventures of a young man who falls in love with a girl who is a member of a tribe of Amazonians.	THE ROYAL OPERA Royal Opera House, Covent Garden Tonight: <i>The Barber of Seville</i> . The opera by Rossini, with a libretto by C. C. Zappi. The story is set in Seville and tells of the adventures of a young man who falls in love with a girl who is a member of a tribe of Amazonians.
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The Executive's and Office World

GENERATION TRENDS

bonus advantage

COLAS LESLIE

SET of middle management by inflation restraint has been noted over the past year. But, according to a new U.K. executive survey, there are exceptions at the middle management level who have seen a real improvement in real earnings compared with 12 months ago. Management also suggests that earnings improvement in the year ended was due to those at the top management level, however, MCE 10th middle and top management have seen a real improvement in real earnings after inflation which at 1976 was running at 10 per cent. annually. The survey covers 1,658 in 73 companies with a turnover of over £100,000 and also looks at likely 1977 and states that the average 10 per cent. top management pay per cent. for middle management is the point on the salary scale as many people are above as below rather than being the usual 15 per cent. salary payroll.

MEDIAN REMUNERATION LEVELS	
CHIEF EXECUTIVE	TOP MANUFACTURING EXECUTIVE
Non-bonus-paying companies	Non-bonus-paying companies
Company sales (£m.)	Company sales (£m.)
Base salary: total remuneration (£)	Base salary: total remuneration (£)
Bonus-paying companies	Bonus-paying companies
Company sales (£m.)	Company sales (£m.)
Base salary (£)	Base salary (£)
Total remuneration (£)	Total remuneration (£)
TOP MARKETING-SALES EXECUTIVE	TOP FINANCIAL EXECUTIVE
Non-bonus-paying companies	Non-bonus-paying companies
Company sales (£m.)	Company sales (£m.)
Base salary: total remuneration (£)	Base salary: total remuneration (£)
Bonus-paying companies	Bonus-paying companies
Company sales (£m.)	Company sales (£m.)
Base salary (£)	Base salary (£)
Total remuneration (£)	Total remuneration (£)

bonuses. In the case of deputy chief executives the respective figures were 12.9 per cent. and 16.9 per cent. and top research executives received a 19.4 per cent. rise with bonuses, but only 15.4 per cent. without. These increases take no account of inflation.

A striking difference in the median salary level emerged for chief executives of companies with sales up to £10m. a year, compared with those of companies with sales in excess of £10m. annual sales. For the former the median level was £11,912, in terms of base salary, rising to £13,819 total remuneration including bonus. In the larger companies, the chief executive's median base salary was £21,000, rising to £21,360 with bonus. Thus, the percentage of bonus to salary was over twice as much in the first category—at 33.3 per cent.—than the 15.6 per cent. in the second.

Of companies covered in the survey, 97 per cent. had a predetermined salary review period for awarding cost-of-living, merit or other types of increases. Just over 80 per cent. of companies reviewed salaries against cost-of-living for both top and middle management, with 75 per cent. making such appraisals annually. The remainder made twice-yearly reviews or had other arrangements.

Almost 90 per cent. applied cost-of-living increases to base salary, the remainder drawing the line below base salary. And, apart from four companies, all participants used the official consumer price index to calculate cost-of-living increases.

In 98 per cent. of companies, management salaries were reviewed regularly against performance or on merit. Other review policies included length of service, used by 29 per cent.; age, 24 per cent.; market value of the individual or function, 68 per cent.; and influence of collective agreement stipulations, either directly, 11 per cent., or indirectly, 8 per cent.

Another survey just published by the British concern, Employment Conditions Abroad, looks at U.K. experience in relation to the cost-of-living increases.

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Re-fit for banking



The refurbishment, design and fitting of the City office of London and Continental Bankers led to the above result for the company's money trading table. The project was carried out by S&S Kavinonics, a U.S.-based company specialising in space planning and design. Environments is defined as "the science of design of the things people use and the place where they use them," and the company has applied its techniques on, among others, the Sears headquarters in Chicago, which is the tallest building in the world.

Methods of introducing employee participation

THE STEADY progression towards employee participation takes in motivation and industrial relations, growth of white collar unionism, industrial relations training and personnel management.

The participation courses at the university and the school form just one of a variety of subjects to be covered by the two establishments in their next year's programmes. Brunel sees job evaluation as a subject where there is no simple answer and has devised a course to discuss the systems available.

Brunel has also devised a course on workplace negotiations, aimed at industrial relations staff and line managers involved in negotiations at workplace level, and designed to establish a framework of principles to apply and to improve negotiating skills in the light of the trend towards management by negotiation.

The school's programme for next year takes in similar subjects, together with finance and accounting, marketing, production and purchasing.

Sue Cameron looks at body language, a method of character analysis without the spoken word

Movement says all

BODY LANGUAGE may say more about a person's character and ability than the spoken word. If someone moves back and forth in his chair it probably shows he is a farsighted individual who is busy thinking out the consequences of his actions. If he grips his pen or bangs on the table he is in the process of making a decision. If he stays silent but constantly shifts his position then it is certain he is not attending to the business in hand and the chances are he is a con man.

This is the theory, at any rate, behind the management consultancy techniques used by Warren Lamb Associates. Mr. Lamb and his partner, Ms. Pamela Ramsden, interview top management teams noting what they do rather than what they say. They then work out the strengths and weaknesses of the individuals and advise on how the members of each team can best complement each other.

Interpreting

The best interviewers are those who are good at interpreting this body language. They may not know how they do it. They may think they are working on instinct. But Mr. Lamb insists that what they are really doing is reading non-verbal clues. All he has done is to classify the clues.

Mr. Lamb and Ms. Ramsden say they need to interview a manager for about two hours before they can start to build up a profile of him. The interview takes the form of a general discussion about business and although they aim to watch rather than listen they claim that people quickly lose any self-consciousness. They explain what they are doing at the outset but they do not leap for their notebooks every time someone blinks and they say most managers become too en-

grossed in describing their companies' problems to notice how they are moving. Occasionally they come across someone unwilling to cooperate. Would-be saboteurs usually sit on their hands or stay stock still throughout the interview. Unfortunately for them it is extremely difficult to keep still for more than half an hour and extraordinary positions soon become uncomfortable. Mr. Lamb and Ms. Ramsden say that as a result initial resistance is invariably overcome.

The object of the whole exercise is to find out how different individuals make decisions. Mr. Lamb says decision-making can be divided into three stages: investigation, resolution and implementation. Each phase involves different skills and activities and most people are better at one particular part of the process.

One man's strength may be in investigating the possibilities open to his company. He may enjoy gathering information, finding out other people's opinions and considering new ways of approach. But a manager who really enjoys the initial, fact-finding stage of decision-making may find it hard actually to select and commit himself to a particular course of action. If he is part of a well-balanced team whose other members are good at crystallising ideas and putting them into practice then everything will work well. Trouble starts when all the members of a team specialise in one area.

Mr. Lamb claims his ability to interpret body language enables him to gauge whether a company is running into difficulties because its top managers are rushing round placing orders and no one is getting on with the preliminary job of shepherding information. Non-verbal clues are important because a man may be quite unaware of his preference for investigating a situation rather than implementing a decision.

Some people's gestures and bearing show that their interests and abilities are evenly balanced—but perfect balance tends to indicate dullness and a lack of dynamism. Fortunately this is a rare type of manager.

Having diagnosed the weak links in a management team's strengths Mr. Lamb and Ms. Ramsden are able to make various suggestions. If possible they like everyone concerned to see each other's profiles with just one flick of her well-integrated hips. The question is: can anyone, including Mr. Lamb, ever be sure that she means it?

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MONDAY, JULY 19, 1976

Taking over schools

THE DAY has now passed when it was considered appropriate to bestow sole control of the curriculum in schools upon the teaching profession. This sentiment is not derived from some new "Black Paper" expressing a conservative view on education; it is taken, verbatim, from "Labour's Programme for Britain" 1976. The passage deserves further study, since it was printed only a few weeks before last Friday's disturbing report on the events at William Tyndale Junior School, and it contains the essence of a new policy upon which all parties should be able to agree.

Political

"The time has come to modify the position, enshrined in the 1944 Act, by which the Secretary of State stays at arms length from the curriculum in schools," say the authors of Labour's new programme. Taken in the wrong way, this could be a political development to resist at all costs, since no Minister should have the power to say what schoolchildren should be taught to think, even if the subject-matter is, as Labour's programme suggests, "democratic values in society." But taken in a different way, the revitalisation of the supine Department of Education is an essential next step in education policy.

The lesson of William Tyndale is that the place to begin is in the primary schools, with the starting-off point being a set of minimum standards of reading, writing and counting ability that it should be the child's right to be properly taught. There is no need to enter into disputes about the method of teaching; the Minister's responsibility ought to be to ensure that no teacher, or headmaster, deprives the children in any school of this fundamental right. It is possible to understand opposition to this principle from the teachers' unions; but other trade unions, and all the political parties, could hardly dissent.

Time running out on fishing policy

AS THE Council of Ministers of the European Community begins its last meeting before the summer break in Brussels today, the British fishing industry will simultaneously hold a Press conference in London to launch another blast against the absence of a British fishing policy. This is not, of course, coincidence. Since the arrival of Mr. Croxall (who represents the fishing constituency of Grimsby) at the Foreign Office, the industry and the Government have been more on speaking terms than they were, and since the settlement of the cod war with Iceland the preparation of some sort of a policy has been under way. Yet the fact remains that there is a great deal still to be done, that Britain cannot do it alone, and that there is very little time available.

Reversal

The origins of the British predicament go back a long way. It is very curious, for example, that if there had to be a renegotiation of the British terms of entry to the Community, the common fisheries policy (CFP) was not included. It was, after all, a clear case where conditions had changed since the policy was formulated: the CFP was drawn up when fishing limits were the norm and no one had foreseen the general move to 200 miles. By the time of renegotiation, the change was on the horizon, but the Government chose to ignore it.

It is also true that British policy to-day is a striking reversal of the policy that maintained until only a few months ago. Almost until the settlement of the cod war, the British attitude was that the unilateral Icelandic declaration of 200 mile limits was illegal and that everything must be done to prevent anyone else moving in the same direction. British policy to-day is that the European Community must be persuaded to declare its own 200 mile limits as soon as possible. Since the U.S. and Canada — not to mention a number of smaller powers — are preparing to introduce 200 mile legislation

Serious flaws mar the proposals to revitalise London dockland. Quentin Guirham reports

Strategy for wasteland

THE FINAL strategy foring of the war, and much was bad social conditions than has redeveloping London's never rebuilt. Industrially, its decline has followed the fall of feel a sense of guilt toward East agreed this week. The Docklands Joint Committee — London, St. Katherine, Surrey made up of the five boroughs which run either side of the Thames in East London, plus the Greater London Council — has taken its last evidence and had its last wrangle about how it thinks over £2bn. should be spent. The Government will be expected to respond, if possible before the summer recess. This is one of its trickier decisions.

Not that the Government, directly, is expected to foot most of this Concorde-like bill. The private sector is supposed to take up £900m. of it, and much of the rest would come from local authority rates. But the longer plans to redevelop the area have been studied, the clearer it has become that some special central government finance, over and above the normal support for transport and housing projects, would be necessary. The GLC and virtually all those with a say in the matter, are convinced that the key to any revival lies in better transport, and that the most important element in a new transport system is an underground service. The Government has made its allocations for capital spending by London Transport. They do not include enough to extend the Fleet Line from the Strand to Fenchurch Street in the City (£55m. at 1975 prices) let alone to the Isle of Dogs and beyond (another £100m. or more).

The stated position remains as it was in a White Paper last August. "Developments in Docklands will be eligible for the normal forms of Government financial support... the Government has no plans for special forms of support over and beyond these." But since then pressure has built up to change this stance. It will be harder this time for the Government merely to say that it wishes the scheme well and then relapse into platitudes, as the White Paper did.

So, at the worst possible moment in view of its ambition to economise, the Government has to decide whether it can help to finance the Docklands scheme. Without extra support the plans may be still-born despite tentative proposals from the GLC to finance the tube line itself. The question is whether an attempt to change the course of history in this classic example of an inner city slum is really worth the money.

The history is bleak. In housing terms, the area was never anything but poor. It suffered London's worst bomb-



Lewissham, and Greenwich) and the GLC now appear to have a joint sense of urgency about at least making a start to implementing their plan.

What this amounts to over the next 15 or 20 years, according to the strategy plan published earlier this year and subject, after a consultation period, to some modifications which should be known this week, is:

- £227m. for land and site preparation, with a community land board, under the Joint Docklands Committee, holding the acquisition power under the Community Land Act.

Of the £900m., excluding land costs, which the private sector will contribute, the biggest slice is the £300m. which is thought the development of the Trade Mart in Surrey Docks will use over the next 18 years. The leasing agreement for the land, between the Southwark, the GLC, and the American developers, Trammell Crow, has already been drawn up. What has not been disclosed yet is where the funding for the first £30m. phase of 1.3m. sq. ft. of warehouse and exhibition space is coming from.

Even leaving aside this huge enterprise, backed by a group with a remarkable success record in running trade marts in Europe as well as America, the Docklands Scheme has to hope for £400m.-worth of private investment in factories with only £50m. expected (or rather allowed) in warehouses and offices. This is where the strategy plan begins to sound so unlikely. It assumes that 76,000 new jobs, mainly industrial, will be needed in East London by the early 1990s; and that the Docklands region could produce 24,500 to 31,000 of them, mainly on 620 acres designated for industrial development in three zones—the Greenwich peninsula, the Poplar-Silvertown area, and at East Beekton.

But how is industry attracted back to an area when recent history shows quite clearly that it cannot survive there and, ironically, the decline of the docks has just provided another disincentive in the Dock Work Regulation Bill? The planners argue, with justification, that often industry has not had the sites it needs, that expanding and the companies have been forced out, not just by Government's financial encouragement to go for extra Government to the Assisted Areas, but by White fever who know the better facilities they find would condemn any there. A policy of wholesale land acquisition providing space bet on more than for modern factory estates success.

That makes a total of £291m. for housing and rehabilitation, with 20 per cent of the new houses owner-occupied, and a roughly equal split of the remainder between local authority renting and some form of equity sharing. There is vociferous opposition, mainly from the GLC-sponsored Joint Docklands Action Group (made up of young, fairly radical, community planners and workers as an umbrella organisation for all the "action groups" involved in the area) to the level of straight council renting. They say most of the present population could not afford any form of equity sharing or owner occupation. The councils which support equity sharing reckon it will be cheaper for them in the short term, and an encouragement to maintaining property.

• A total of £467m. on transport, £282m. of it for roads. The GLC thinks that, at least for the present, some of the road schemes are unnecessary; the South-East Economic Planning Council thinks the roads should get priority over the underground (it also thinks there is not enough private housing); and the Joint Docklands Action Group thinks the river should be exploited for transport, that more buses is the immediate priority and may prove of more help than a new underground.

• Then there is £11m. for recreation and open space, £29m. for schools and health centres, and £118m. for gas, water and electricity supplies.

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Soundness, but for publicans keen to ensure or even step up their own draught bitter stocks, some breweries are sticking to collection rules which have irritated their customers. For instance, Ind Coope, the South East operation of Allied Breweries (on record as offering licensees more bitter to make up larger shortfalls) is restricting the amount of beer that can be collected from breweries and depots. "This is only sensible," explains Allied. "In view of the safety regulations and the danger of congestion." The quantity that can be taken away: one 36-gallon (288 pints) barrel, not an awful lot on a sticky day.

Some publicans are now pressing the National Union of Licensed Victuallers to sort out compensation terms so that the brewers would pay up something towards trade lost, an unusual if perhaps unrealistic approach.

On lager, the Brewers Society reports that consumption is up anywhere from 60 to 100 per cent over the

Population leaving

What can be done? The central law in all the plans to change for area may be that they aim at improvement only, not at fundamental change.

The population has been steadily leaving. It is down to 56,000 in the Docklands scheme area. The planners therefore say it must be attracted back — 100,000 or more by the 1990s. Industry has left. Therefore it must be encouraged to return. No politician, at last publicly, has said the area cannot be revived with anything like its present social structure, that it would be better to encourage the inhabitants to leave, better to encourage the low employment warehouse for which there is a demand, rather than factories for which there is not, perhaps, better even to encourage some of the marinas and golf courses which a study commissioned by the last Conservative Government envisaged.

Such negative solutions do not commend themselves, particularly when East London has such a sentimental hold on politicians. Even those who feel that dockers' demands have more to do with the decline of the Port of London than contamination, or that one-party local government spathy has more to answer for in terms of

MEN AND MATTERS

Mothercare's U.S. moves

Mothercare has finally clinched its first corporate acquisition overseas—spending \$12m. on an American store chain—and is backing its belief in the possibilities for expansion by despatching a large and heavy-weight management contingent to the States. The founder and present chairman and managing director, Selim Zilkha, is a U.S. citizen, which perhaps goes some way to explain the enthusiasm for having three senior U.K. executives out there in future: they include his long-time partner Barney Goodman, more or less joint chief executive and with Zilkha for 13 of Mothercare's 15 successful years.

First the deal itself. Mothercare, with £60m. annual sales, has 158 branches in Britain and 13 on the Continent. It first tried to break into the American maternity market three years ago but failed finally to agree terms with the equally aptly-named Motherhood chain.

Motherhood is based in California. The only other national chain of significance is Dekon Corporation, with headquarters at the other end of the country in New York, and this is the company Mothercare has now purchased. It operates 114 shops in 27 States. Most of them are smaller than Mothercare's U.K. stores, and the stock range tends to be restricted just to outfits for the mother-to-be, which in Britain only accounts these days for about ten per cent of the Mothercare range.

Some of Dekon's larger stores therefore have the potential for their range to be extended to clothes for babies and small children à la Mothercare. American Jerome Bercun will continue to be president of

Dekon, but with a trio from Mothercare U.K. on the spot too. Apart from 51-year-old Goodman, who has already lived there for a year, the new U.S. residents will be financial controller Stanley Silver, who joined Mothercare in 1973 from the Watney Mann brewing group (he had enjoyed the company before Grand Metropolitan's takeover but "I felt it changed slightly afterwards"); and Charles Wilson, ten years with Mothercare and lately head of overseas operations.

Most British retailers have fought shy of the tricky American scene, preferring to expand in Europe and the Commonwealth. Mothercare, which last year pulled out of its Japanese activities and cut back in Germany, seems to be paring the risks with its latest deal by moving in management.

All in all, the Dekon purchase is "very exciting," declares Silver. "It could prove to be a greater opportunity than when the company started here in the U.K."

Commission, adding that the T-shirts are not subject to copyright. I can't wait to see them in the shops. Or rather I can.

normal demand thanks to an extended heatwave that retailers and brewers could hardly have foreseen.

Production of icy lager takes several weeks as its very nature means it must be kept in maturation tanks for a long period. "Apart from this long production period," the Brewers Society adds, "brewers are faced with enormous distribution problems to cope with the demand on this scale. Road safety and other rules govern the number of hours which draymen can be expected to work."

"Despite this, every brewery is working overtime until late in the evening and throughout the week-ends to get supplies to the pubs. In addition many breweries are allowing retailers to collect supplies themselves."

Soundness, but for publicans keen to ensure or even step up their own draught bitter stocks, some breweries are sticking to collection rules which have irritated their customers. For instance, Ind Coope, the South East operation of Allied Breweries (on record as offering licensees more bitter to make up larger shortfalls) is restricting the amount of beer that can be collected from breweries and depots. "This is only sensible," explains Allied. "In view of the safety regulations and the danger of congestion." The quantity that can be taken away: one 36-gallon (288 pints) barrel, not an awful lot on a sticky day.

Beery

You never know, it may rain to-day and go on for the rest of the summer. But if that doesn't happen, the problem of beer—and particularly lager—supplies look like being a persistently perspiring one for many pubs. The huge increase in lager drinking has led to supply shortages, and draught bitter has proved a difficulty in some instances.

Some publicans are now pressing the National Union of Licensed Victuallers to sort out compensation terms so that the brewers would pay up something towards trade lost, an unusual if perhaps unrealistic approach.

On lager, the Brewers Society reports that consumption is up anywhere from 60 to 100 per cent over the

Hear this

From the Your Questions Answered section of a Shropshire newspaper: "Wood lice are small isopod crustaceans of the genus Oniscus. They live under old bricks and bark."

Observer

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FINANCIAL TIMES SURVEY

Monday July 19 1976

Property

Investment has been increasing but development has declined against a background of rising property values. The banks and the property companies are feeling the aftermath of the 1974 collapse. Commercial rents are generally sluggish but industrial demand is improving.

EAR WILL be necessary compound growth rates, often into double figures, to justify such a gap. This would be enough to explain why most fund managers want to see approaching a third of any portfolio invested in property, without taking into account the unquantifiable premium which Government legislation commands over the poor investment equities and Gilts as an alternative sectors which could weather economic collapse, is in or social collapse.

a growing minority Property development has lured who feel that just suffered a disastrous decline, but property investment has not. In 1973-75 the proportionate value of property in a fund soared over 50 per cent, and even, in 1974, it was its Gilts. Most of the rents kept ear, produce a short-term supply should the reviews of levels set five or more into a strong seven years before came up.

But that was not for at least two it has not happened. Demand has remained out sectors.

as not anticipated—warnings of over-ere heard only early—was that the invest-ment would pick up so a period of static rental values. The pension funds and companies are plac-let offices and ware-nd on prime retail appears to defy strict logic when these a discount in initial 8 or 9 percentage hen compared with dated Gilts.

t-war Britain has seen ds during which the rties have shown the been the roaring capital-value

increases of the previous years. The aftermath of the develop-ment boom based on those values can be seen in the rising trend of institutional investment even in 1974 and 1975. Insurance companies and pension funds spent £710m. in 1974 and £748m. in 1975, compared with £252m. net investment in 1972 and £555m. in 1973. That spend-ing in the years following the peak of the market did not stop

bank lending to the property sector (though these totals in-clude lending to the residential sector in which the institutions do not directly invest) to show net increases of almost £1bn. in 1974 and £200m. in 1975.

In short, the investment market played a major part in enabling property companies to de-gear from the exposed condi-tion in which their development programmes had left them. But it is in no way sufficient to clear the backlog of property lending which the banks have incurred, much of it on secondary prop-erties which the institutions do not want. Indeed an alarming proportion of it is on empty sites.

The extent of final bank losses will take many years to assess. Provisions announced

by the secondary lenders like First National Finance Corpora-tion and Keyser Uihmann rep-resent the immediate impact of the collapse of many of their borrowers. What the security they leave behind is worth de-pends very much on rental de-mand over the next few years and the extent to which this may tempt institutions into what are at present regarded as secondary investments.

A similar question mark hangs over many property com-panies. The quoted groups have sold around £850m. of assets over the last two years, some of this overseas. This has still not been sufficient for many to cut borrowings and produce a positive cash flow, while the fall in central London office values—the stated assets often being based on 1973 valuations—and of new developments virtually everywhere has eroded their equity base.

As development programmes come to an end and short-term borrowings fall, the effect of this, combined with sales and real asset values recovering back towards 1973 levels, will save several groups who appeared doomed, merely being left as corporate entities be-

cause of the lifeboat offered to property as part of Bank of England policy to stabilise the market, and because the indi-vidual bankers could anyway see no advantage in foreclosing on their security if it consisted of empty office blocks or un-filled sites.

Only one major public group, Amalgamated Investment and Property, has gone into liquida-tion, and that happened more

Capital and Counties is in fur-ther talks with its banks fol-lowing disposal of most of its overseas assets and about £30m. of properties in Britain.

This, even allowing for the failure of several smaller pub-lic groups and the host of private development companies which have gone under, leav-ing the banks to pursue the often ridiculously high personal guarantees accepted from their

Such a rise seems unlikely. The Government itself was a major force in the letting mar-ket for most of last year, but the requirements of its Property Services Agency, both because of contracts completed for staff and relocated from central London a-4 because of expenditure cuts, will decline. The private sector is now taking more new space, but only in limited areas.

Industrial demand has begun to improve, and this is one area where the economies of develop-ment are still favourable. It will account for a very large proportion of the new expendi-ture by property companies in the next year provided the economy does not decline fur-ther. Industrial rents, being a smaller proportion of total costs for users than office rents, have shown steadier growth than any little to be gained by allowing other sector and may once again begin to roll up any longer.

Meanwhile the majority of public groups, whose funding has been proved sound, face a period when they appear to have little alternative but to turn into companies. The economic factors which prevent them undertaking further development have been accepted by, for instance, the Pilcher Committee, reporting to the Government on the com-mercial property market. Mr. Sydney Mason, chairman of

Hammerston Property and In-vestment Trust, normally an active developer (this year it completed the Brent Cross shopping centre) has said that it will need a 30 to 40 per cent rise in rents to make develop-ment possible.

But throughout most of the country there is still a large oversupply of office space. In some areas this will be enough to satisfy demand for several years. In others, such as the South-East, particularly in and around London, with the plan-ning policy restriction on development as well as economic factors a shortage will be created by a continuing lack of development. Rents will rise, and if by 1978-80 the economy is much strengthened, then they could rise sharply.

Such a possibility is not, however, sufficient for develop-ment companies to fund schemes now to take advantage of that demand, and so avoid a chronic shortage of space which would lead to another unsustained boom. The gap can only be filled by tax-favoured institutions. Several, mainly insurance companies, are going ahead with refurbish-ment and rebuilding schemes.

The main institutional mar-ket however, remains in exist-ing well-let properties, whose value will be boosted by the shortage of investments created for them by developers. Government policy envisages a larger development role for the institutions. The next year will show whether they are pre-pared to fill it.

Demand for office space does not at present justify increased rents in the near future. There are a few areas of strong de-

Market lacks stability

By Quentin Guirham, Property Correspondent

21 Across, 31, 23 Down:

Lo! Ten ton Jaws go on.

(5,4,7,Anag)



ACROSS

- 1 Project this in order to keep things under control.
- 7 One of the Services, although not ours.
- 10 This metric unit is definitely backward.
- 11 Shy away from.
- 13 With which to think, after taking it out of this country.
- 14 There were three of them in the boat.
- 15 See 7 down.
- 17 Yours when you complete the collection.
- 18 A street in France.
- 19 Sinbad became attached to one of these.
- 21 31D and 23D. (Anag.) Lo! Ten ton Jaws go on.
- 22 Something we consider essential for money.
- 25 Source of wealth in the Middle East.
- 26 Do Scotsmen wear this in the rain?
- 27 Not up, but an old penny short.
- 29 Runs better with a drink in it.
- 32 The heart of our Mr. Jones.
- 34 Rated, but somewhat confused.
- 35 Angry insect may well give you one.
- 36 Joan would not feel complete without one.
- 37 Positively not, shortened.
- 38 We do just about everything with them on an international scale.

DOWN

- 2 Well known busy builder.
- 3 Wide awake.
- 4 Favourite with biscuits in our Amsterdam office.
- 5 The odds are against it being this.
- 6 Put a mat on it before eating.
- 7 and 15 Across. This property is not a figment of your imagination.
- 8 It's fine on the outside if you take the french out of franc.
- 9 Not out with an American jacket.
- 12 More than just a building.
- 16 Can change the shape of mountains.
- 17 Ring 01-493 6040 for this.
- 19 Almost the direction to travel.
- 20 Probably pay one on a continental road.
- 23 See 21 across.
- 24 The most diverse of our services.
- 28 Go west before seeking assistance.
- 30 Watchman doesn't do a day's work.
- 31 See 21 across.
- 32 By yourself in a Norwegian town.
- 33 Sounds angry, but not in our Dublin office.
- 36 In the hole.

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PROPERTY II

SELECTED PROPERTY COMPANIES

	Gross rental income £000	Pre-tax profit before interest £000	after interest £000	Dividend yield %	Market capitalisation £m.	Net tangible assets £000	per share pence
Alliott London Property ...	3,280	3,100	1,715	3.56	27.5	23,847	118.2
Artagen Properties ...	3,274	4,057	2,231	4.67	49.6	41,416	74.3
Berkeley Hambro ...	4,632	4,386	1,339	3.57	51.2	45,828	292.0
Bilton Percy ...	3,535	6,740	5,022	4.18	31.3	16,034	77.3
British Land ...	11,184	11,042	-6,510	0.00	15.4	110,231	246.9
Brixton Estate ...	N/A	2,955	1,140	2.52	24.6	91,754	121.8
Capital and Counties ...	18,240	22,065	4,263	0.77	10.9	132,078	159.7
English Property ...	56,165	33,043	4,262	6.29	42.2	42,322	165.4
Great Portland Estate ...	4,780	3,630	1,832	2.57	67.2	45,051	438.6
Hammerston Property "A" ...	27,487	17,026	3,976	1.88	46.2	71,052	310.1
Haslemere Estates ...	4,507	5,496	1,049	1.98	47.4	75,063	78.9
Land Investors ...	3,154	1,854	826	2.51	28.6	424,368	277.3
Land Securities ...	46,265	38,755	15,376	3.59	264.7	24,342	76.3
Law Land ...	4,080	2,413	659	6.15	18.0	37,048	42.1
London City and Westcliff MEPC ...	4,332	2,980	-499	0.40	16.7	239,101	233.9
Property Holding ...	41,235	22,532	-5,011	0.60	79.8	35,169	320.7
Scottish Metrop. Property ...	1,133	1,524	766	3.67	29.2	22,325	82.2
Slough Estates ...	2,306	2,321	820	3.48	20.9	75,545	82.6
Sunley, Bernard ...	9,597	9,828	5,313	3.44	75.3	61,837	206.8
Stock Conversion ...	6,174	5,700	3,559	1.41	52.9	49,935	312.1
Sunley, Bernard ...	4,086	2,746	-2,283	5.54	18.6	116,358	57.8
Town and City Properties ...	26,291	10,322	-9,806	0.12	26.1	21,500	213.7
Town and Commercial Prop. United Real Property ...	N/A	4,885	-4,732	8.00	0.5	28,756	239.6
	2,094	1,934	1,312	2.75	23.8		

Statistics based on 13/7/77, therefore not taking account of, for instance, the proposed Capital and Counties sale in
Different bases may be used for some calculations, such as the adjusted net tangible assets which here represent equity assets including goodwill and
property surpluses at directors' valuation not incorporated in the balance sheet.
Source: dataSTREAM International

Signs of more active investment interest

INDICATIONS OF a much point above the All-Share yield, more active investment market they have now dipped below. The only time that has happened before for more than a month or two was in the some-what artificial period from mid-1974 to the revival of the stock market the following January. Depending on from what point one charts the drop in the then thin market and taking 51 per cent as the present rate, yields have come down over the period by around 14 per cent, and by more for the best industrial investments.

Back in February Mr. M. H. Mallinson, deputy chief surveyor of Prudential Assurance, wrote in an investment bulletin from Vanbrugh Life Assurance, a medium through which he presumably wanted to express his company's philosophy, that "property has become the fashionable area for investment. The impact of this demand has driven down the yields on the limited supply of suitable properties. In view of the underlying weakness of rents, with no sign yet of any recovery, and the background of historically high interest rates, yields in a few cases seem to have reached excessively low levels."

Case

To prove his point, he then quoted the case of a below-£1m. West End investment which was sold at 53 per cent. That size of investment was known to be a log-jam area of the market, with many small funds, often new ones, competing to get a foothold in property.

Mr. Mallinson's message appeared to frighten few. From sub-6 per cent yields for the odd small office and for prime shops, this range became a commonplace for larger investments. The bulk of deals, even though institutions were still being very selective in their purchases, were above the 6 per cent mark, but triple-A investments were comfortably below. There was talk even of one or two purchases at barely 5 per cent, and also of institutions gazumping each other.

Even the sterling crisis and the rise in the minimum lending rate did no more than to halt the downward trend — not reverse it. The level of investment activity began to show through in much improved valuations. Eagle Star's £55m. purchase from English Property Corporation and Sun Life Assurance Society's bid for Artagen were icing on the cake for those who wished to see this as a return to the conditions of the early 1970s.

The similarities are ominous but the differences are substantial. Much of the investment (including both Eagle Star's and Sun Life's) was between institutions and related companies, not in the sense of the enormous unscrambling sales of the previous years — but nevertheless by no means symptoms of any quick decision that property must be bought in a hurry (Eagle Star had wanted more property since its Bernard Sunley offer had been referred to the Monopolies Commission and Sun Life wanted to cancel its funding agreement).

Much of the £305m. and £342m. investment in property by pension funds in 1974 and 1975 respectively and the £405m. and £408m. by insurance companies covered commitments entered into in previous years, and this trend is not yet finished, particularly for insurance companies. It is the pension funds which have made the running in the new uncommitted buying and they have only recently pushed the level of total institutional investment in property to over £200m. a quarter, roughly half the rate of equity buying last year.

That the level of pension fund buying should increase was almost inevitable. Not all the newer funds are small. The local government reorganisation has created several very large new funds which have entered the property market for the first time, while other comparatively new funds have wanted to increase their proportion of property holdings from 15 per cent to around 30.

Against this, many an older fund had found, with the fall in equities, that property was making up a disproportionate degree of their assets. They also noted that when it comes to slumps, only what you could sell mattered. The institutions, which have always been more careful reviewers of their portfolios than most property companies, realised that exploiting marriage values to give realisable assets was both a defence against worse to come and also relatively cheap. There has been a great deal of tidying up in this way.

Next, the institutions have

Memories

The more recent revival of investment interest in London has not yet proved that institutions have such short memories as to make the same mistakes again. Besides, in the City there appears to be a better than average chance of rental growth from the fallen levels. The recent larger purchases there do not present evidence to suggest that investment yields on older large properties in the City are anything but still well above those in well-let regional blocks.

So the market appears to be delicately balanced between being pushed into an indiscriminate buying spree, fuelled by thoughts that the drying-up of created investments makes this a "Hurry while stocks last" time, or drawing back from the brink of yields in the low fives to continue with highly selective investments.

The mood of the past fortnight has been one of heady talk of huge deals and auctions developing over several invest-

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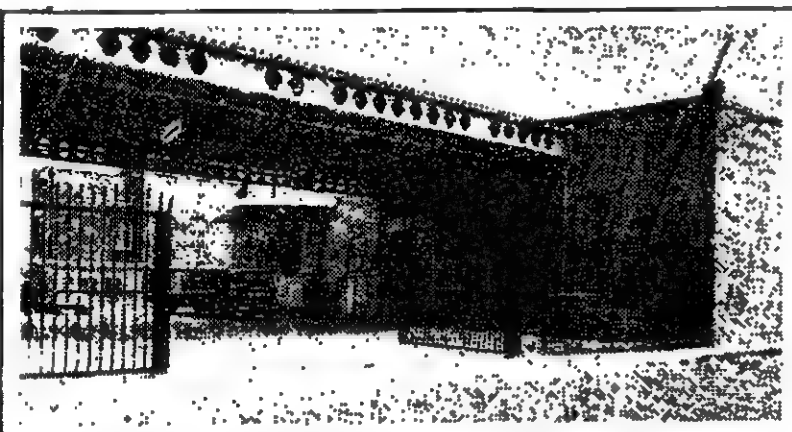
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LOOKING THROUGH PROPERTYLAND

'CAN YOU DO SUMS' ALICE SAID,

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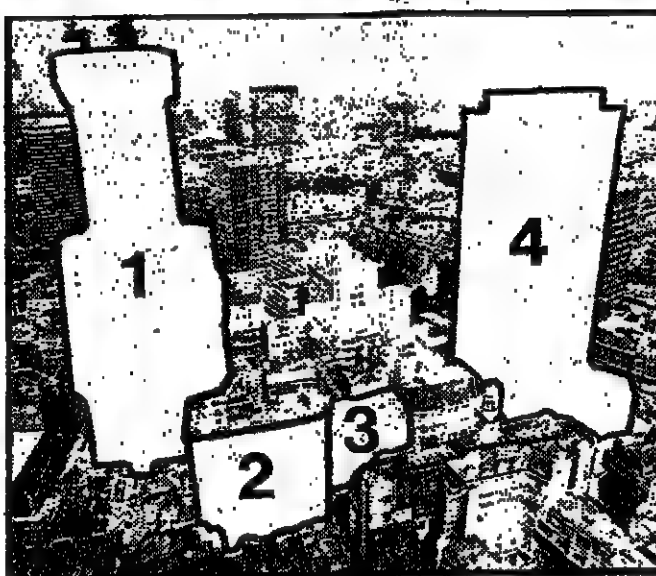
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10/11/77

PROPERTY III



the 52-storey National Westminster tower block (1) in the City of London is towards 600 feet, near neighbours have been sold in two of this year's deals. The headline of 99, Bishopsgate (4) was sold to the main occupiers, Kong and Shanghai Banking Corporation for £32.5m., probably the largest transaction on a single block. Berkeley Hambro Property Company, half-owners of the lease, also sold the freeholds of 41, Bishopsgate, the Hambros headquarters (2), and 51, Bishopsgate, Palmerston House (3), (subject to seback at 80 per cent. of rack rent) to the GEC pension fund for £10.37m.



Property bonds take back seat

RED with the confident 1972-73 there is still an air of conservatism in the property bond field despite movement in sales over the year. The most noticeable is that whereas the property boom of bond funds was keen the lead in property development — openly boasting their success in placing cash inflows—they are happy to let the pension funds take the lead. As Ray manager of the Abbey Fund put it, the funds are in a dominant position in the property market and the days of inflows of money into bond funds seem to be over.

recons it is doing well a positive net inflow, is a far cry from the £8m. of single money came in over month. Monthly sales do not amount to a of this figure and the outflow of single redemptions in 1974 Abbey (and the rest of property bond field) a lesson about the importance of conserving liquidity of building castles. In about the possible values as in the ground.

situation now, according y, is that a lot of funds (included) are returning market so far as development are concerned, but the interest is in pre-let property those which are ally pre-let. The Abbey or example, has only one new development past 9 months and that ot only pre-let but l an existing property the fund. Really big ements are ruled out of the substantial com t involved and Abbey that a 200,000 sq. ft. ock is now too much for liquidity to carry.

ical the past few months a acquisition has been in t. to £1m. range and the ange of contemplation is at the moment to about deed this would be for ing property, for Abbey that it prefers smaller s in the development — with a limited risk apid income-producing il.

is a far cry from the days when property inds looked to the upper s of the property field eed the accent now is on

Programme

A similar story comes from Hambro Life, which is shortly due to secure a stock market quotation. Hambro director Sid Lipworth says that the old development programme which started in 1973 has all been completed and the buildings let to occupational tenants, with the exception of two which are partially let. During 1974 and 1975 Hambro stayed out of development and is just starting to edge back with the accent on letting to the occupier rather than the developer. Hambro originally started its development programme in conjunction with developers and this worked out satisfactorily, but there were a number of renegotiations as some developments were scaled down. Now the maximum size that Hambro Life is willing to contemplate is about £2m. and speculative development is looked upon with caution. It might be possible, say with an extension of a well-placed industrial site, but Mr. Lipworth reckons that the days of optimism have faded somewhat and that development is now a cold-blooded business which is only entered into with extreme caution.

Having said that, Hambro Life has nevertheless quite a number of developments under negotiation. But one feature common to all funds now is that development in Europe is a dead duck—apart from anything else Bank of England approval is no longer forthcoming for exchange control reasons.

Another force in the property fund field are the property unit trusts, which are set up to allow pension funds, charities and local authorities to invest in property. Demand for units has been going very well this year but, unlike the big pension funds, the property unit trusts cannot be sure of a sustained monthly cash flow. They live from month to month and tailor their investment policy accordingly.

The Pension Fund Property Unit Trust (PFPUT), for example, says that starting from the basis of above-normal liquidity in the early part of 1976, it is now taking its buying programme more gently and selectivity is the keynote. At present development is still a

case of mopping-up operations where planning permission had already been given but the price. Abbey had some acid words to say about the attitude of pension funds in this respect, saying that some of the prices being paid could not be justified in Abbey's terms. This sounds very like what some insurance companies were saying about property bonds during the boom, but then these attitudes are all relative to net cash flow. One point Abbey makes is that despite the publicity given to property funds they never did represent more than 20 per cent. of the market even in 1973.

Industrial premises are easier to put up than offices and easy to let when conditions are right. Apart from that, PFPUT is still in the agricultural field and still in the market for the good £1m. property, though recently there has been a tendency to look at the more expensive properties which suffered most after the boom. PFPUT puts anything over £1m. in this class and currently its portfolio has 30 properties of over £1m. out of a total of 170.

But the majority of property funds—and especially those in the property bond field—learned too many hard lessons in 1974 to go overboard this time with big properties. Perhaps Tyndall was the main culprit during that period when, anticipating a continued high cash flow, it bought a property which subsequently turned out to be too big for the fund's size. It was not the only one but the most striking example and the mistake is not liable to be repeated.

Premiums

Most bond funds are also now anxious to attract regular premium policies in (hopefully) equal proportion to the more volatile single premiums, but inevitably this tends to be a slower method of growth. It is also significant that some companies like Hambro Life are more keen to sell property as part of a "managed fund" deal to the investor so that they can ring the changes on equities, property and fixed interest as conditions change. But inevitably property tends to be the most static part of these funds simply because other investments are more easily liquidated.





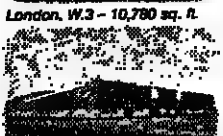




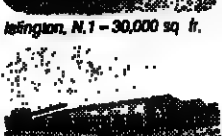
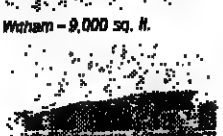
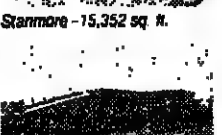
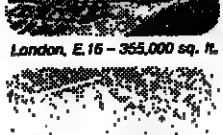


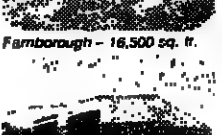
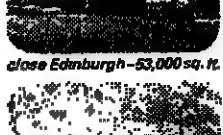
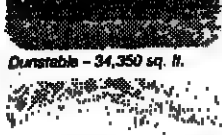
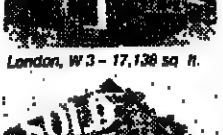
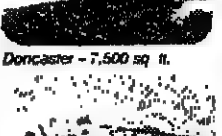
One big question mark during 1974 concerned the performance of property funds and the apparent discrepancy between widespread news of crashing property values and the minuscule downgrading of fund unit values in the early stages. No doubt the valuers had their reasons—one of which was that valuations were conservative during the good times—but it all added fuel to the view that in bad times property values were much more difficult to pinpoint than equities.

But what the property funds can now say is that over the longer term (since the recovery in property values) is that property has still turned out to be a gentler ride than equities. The majority of property bond funds show gains over a five-year period, though none is particularly exciting.

Christopher Hill

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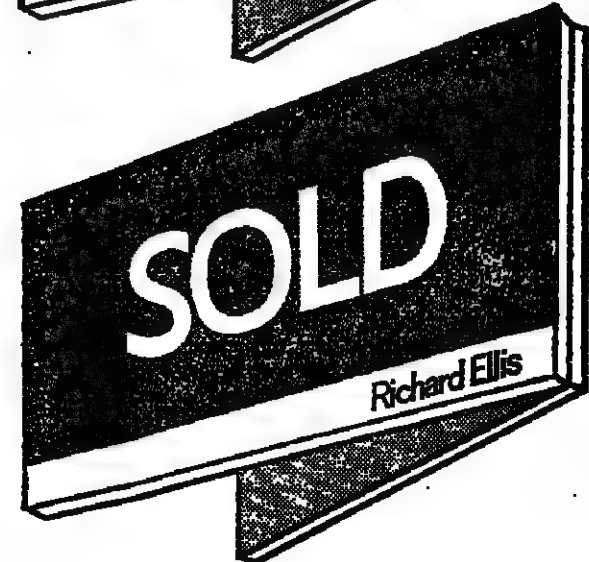
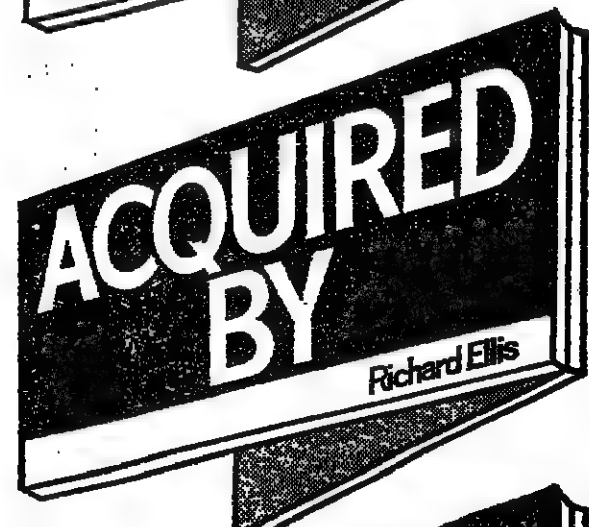
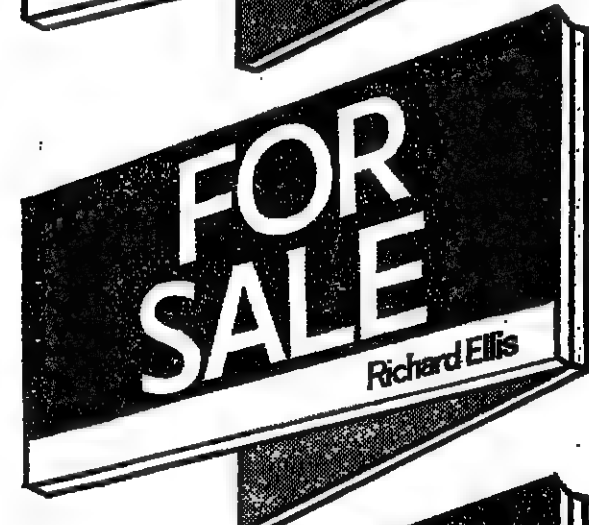
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PROPERTY IV

Industry opposes legislation

WHILE THE articulated juggernaut with the dual numberplate CLA/DTL creates the most noise with its passing, it is not the only traffic on the road for property men to watch out for. There is a whole convoy of property-linked legislation going through Parliament at the moment.

The only Bill which has the wholehearted assent of the property world is the private member's Bill to regulate estate agents which has just been introduced by Mr. Weetch. It has only just been announced so the details are not yet clear, but the emphasis seems to be on putting the onus onto the professional bodies within the framework of general guidelines through legislation. This must stiffen the sinews of the RICS and ISVA, who for years have complained that, without compulsory registration for their members, their institutional discipline lacks teeth.

One important aspect of the preamble to the Bill is the sensible approach to the basis for registration. The authors seem aware of the need to frame entry requirements in such a way that they do not penalise estate agents of undoubted experience who do not have formal qualifications.

But if this Bill is looked upon with favour, few of the others are. In most cases it is difficult to believe in the supposedly changing attitude of Government ministers towards the property sector. In some quarters it is being said that the implacable opposition to property is softening and that Government has realised it went too far in making "the pips squeak."

But as recently as June 22, during the debate on the Development Land Tax Bill, the Minister of State for the Treasury, Mr. David Davies, made the statement that "there is no shortage of commercial development and no lack of profit in this area." In 1976, given the background of falling companies, suspended development programmes and property write downs, this view has left property men speechless. In fact, it seems, the Government intends to press ahead with new rules for property, which will even hit at nationalised industries.

In particular, there is the New Towns Amendment Act, which transfers to district councils all the housing assets of the new town development corporations. While hotly denied in some quarters, it seems that the Government has turned its face against new towns, despite the fact that they provide the central exchequer with some £40m. per year in revenue as well as performing efficiently in the provision of houses and industry.

Other legislation affects agricultural land. Two Bills currently before the House prove that farming is now firmly in the political arena.

The first is the legislation abolishing tied cottages for farm workers. Traditionally, farmers have provided accommodation for their workers on the basis that the worker can



Institutional clients of King and Co. paid about £2m. for part of the Loughborough central redevelopment scheme by Three Star Properties.

be evicted if the farmer re-places him or if he leaves the farmer's employ. Now the security of tenure provided in the 1974 Rent Act is to be extended to cover farm workers who have had two years' service in agriculture.

Requisition

The Act is not as fierce as originally proposed. The farmer will, after all, be able to requisition the property for a new worker, when it will be the duty of the local authority to house him. But he cannot be moved until alternative accommodation is made available. However, where there are councils with long housing lists the farmer will be hamstrung until accommodation is found for his ex-worker.

More vital, perhaps, to the workings of the farm land market, however, is the legislation under the Agriculture (Miscellaneous Provisions) Bill, which regulates the succession to tenancies on farms. At one point it appeared that almost anyone nominated by the tenant would be entitled to succeed to the tenancy on the tenant's death. In the final draft it now seems that the right will pass to members of the tenant's family, provided that the successor has some experience in farming and can show himself a fit person to carry on the tenancy.

Nevertheless, this weaker version still has vital implications

for the investment market, as it ties a landlord to one particular tenant for at least two generations (it is not clear whether the rights to succeed can be handed down more than once). According to investors, this is creating a growing reluctance to invest in let land and is thereby widening the price gap between let and vacant land.

Farmers are also worried by rumours and counter-rumours of even greater penalties to come, though they have taken heart from the special provisions in the Finance Bill which restore their position under capital transfer tax to much the same level as prevailed under the old estate duty. The rumours include the notion from the Fabian Society to nationalise farmland—a notion which was ridiculed throughout the Labour Party without any prompting from the Opposition; and the acknowledgement in the Layfield Report that had farmland been paying rates during 1974-75 (farms are presently unrateable) revenue would have benefited by some £120m.

The housing sector, of course, continues to come in for its fair share of legislation, but in at least one area the current ideas are intended to rectify some of the problems created by the 1974 Rent Act. It has now become apparent that the granting of almost total security of tenure to all tenants in whatever class of accommodation has driven the private landlord almost into extinction. Further, more, it has also become obvious

that the private landlord is still imposed ODPs completely expires on July 31 next year. After that date new powers will need to be granted, and there are some signs that they may be different from the current rules. In the recent Government-sponsored Office Location Review several alternatives to the present ODP system were discussed, the most favourable attention being given to the system employed in France.

To entice landlords to come out of hiding Parliament is debating a private member's Bill, introduced in May by Sir B. Rhys Williams, which would recognise "shorthold" tenancies whereby landlords could let properties for specified periods of time with a guarantee of being able to regain possession at the end of the period.

The reverse of this picture, however, is to be found in the private Bill recommending that local authorities be given the powers to requisition properties which have been standing empty for six months or more. The motion for the second reading has been adjourned indefinitely, and it is clear that the Department of the Environment is not in favour of adding to the authorities' compulsory purchase powers. However, there is still strong pressure in favour of forcing the Bill through.

This noseay of Bills and Acts does not comprise the total of legislation passed, passing and pending which will affect property. The threat of the Wealth Tax has not evaporated. There are major problems on the horizon in implementing the Sandilands Report on inflation accounting. But the biggest area of uncertainty shrouds the new provisions for Office Development Permits which are being drawn up at present.

The Minister's powers to

Under the French system tenants obtain an Occupation Permit, which is a licence entitling them to occupy floor-space above a given size in the controlled area. As distinct from the ODP system it has the advantage of directly affecting the demand for accommodation rather than its supply. It does not, as ODPs do, hold up building unconscionably while a tenant is sought before building permission can be granted.

The Office Location Review attacked the ODP system for its ineffectiveness and cumbersome, but its views have fallen on stony ground. The Minister, John Silkin, denied that he would be pursuing the possible alternatives put forward. But the Town and Country Planning Act 1977, in which the new regulations will be enshrined, has still a long way to go before standing on the Statute Books. A change of attitude—even a change of Government—is possible before then. Property men are said to be girding their loins for this fight.

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PROPERTY V

Disquiet over new tax

PROPERTY MEN are judging the Government's realism these days during the long which gave birth to the new Land Tax (DLT) week.

The last long debate Bill in late June on hypothetical cases where owner sells to a private who pays the DLT due (Inland Revenue) thus the local authority as the third party, cases the Government the Inland Revenue over to the local authority a tax benefit it would have had it been buyer two.

clause creating this was slipped in at a late stage, according to property men, that the Government is still unaware of the situation. aim there will be little for the Inland Revenue local authorities to gain from the tax because there have to be developments before any ment Land Tax is paid there are not going to developments, at least several years.

omic conditions have led that it is said. ment programmes have suspended, postponed or abandoned because the are just not there at and look unlikely for its ahead. Add on a tax per cent. on the value accrues to raw land as realised for development u merely have the seal ctivity on site assembly and new development. In see few property com have the cash to buy and at present and no ion is likely to fund such speculation.

sequently, there is little n discussing the effects

on balance-sheets of liability to Development Land Tax. The impact of the Act is upon lost development situations and on holdings of property without planning permission which must now be written down to nil value since nothing is likely to be built on the land and there is no one to sell it to except local authorities who are unlikely to pay the market value, even if they were interested in buying at all.

Concessions

There have been concessions, of course, and some property men will be able to profit from them. Refurbishments, where the original space is not increased by more than 10 per cent., are exempt. So are schemes under 15,000 sq. ft. The biggest concession has been made towards industrial companies (despite lucid pleas to incorporate retailers and hoteliers in the concession they have been ignored). Where an industrialist wants to expand on his own ground he will not be subject to DLT until such time as he ceases trading or sells the land outright for another purpose. He may even carry out a sale and leaseback on that property without triggering off the tax.

This amendment, which was introduced early in the debate, got a last-minute rewording during the report stages and it is possible that it now contains loopholes which would enable a developer to make a bargain with an industrialist and carry out a development part for owner-occupation and a part for sub-leasing.

The new clause states that DLT will not apply on "premises used or designed for use for providing services or facilities ancillary to the use of other premises" designated as industrial premises. Though the debate made quite clear that the Government does not intend the industrial concession to be enlarged in any way to include offices or other commercial space, it will be left to indi-

vidual court cases to prove the stringency of this wording. It is also important to note that this clause provides that if the industrialist chooses to sell off part of those premises he has created under the exemption rule he will be liable only for a strictly proportionate element of the tax. Unfortunately industrialists are the only commercial sector who can claim deferral of the tax until some purely hypothetical time in the future when they might cease operation.

Every other group is caught in the web, including charities and pension funds. The former has an exemption on land owned before September 12, 1974 and on land developed solely for their own use.

Pension funds are not so fortunate. In fact the new Act creates an important precedent by treating pension funds as if they were commercial companies—for the first time. As a result pension funds and institutions are reluctant to adopt the mantle of property developer which the property companies have been forced (perhaps only temporarily) to drop.

There are signs that the institutions are prepared to take on developments but only where the planning permission has already been granted and there is no liability to DLT. Some small relief comes to companies able to take advantage of the breathing space which has been created between the end of First Lettings Tax (May 18) and the beginning of DLT (August 1). During that interval developments started will be liable for neither tax. It is only a small concession, but for several industrial developers who have been able either to move forward or to delay their starts to coincide with the resting space, quite significant.

There have been other concessions of far more importance. The vital point is the "special additions" now available under the Base A application of the

tax. (It is difficult to envisage any landowner opting for any other base than A since this is far and away the most advantageous.)

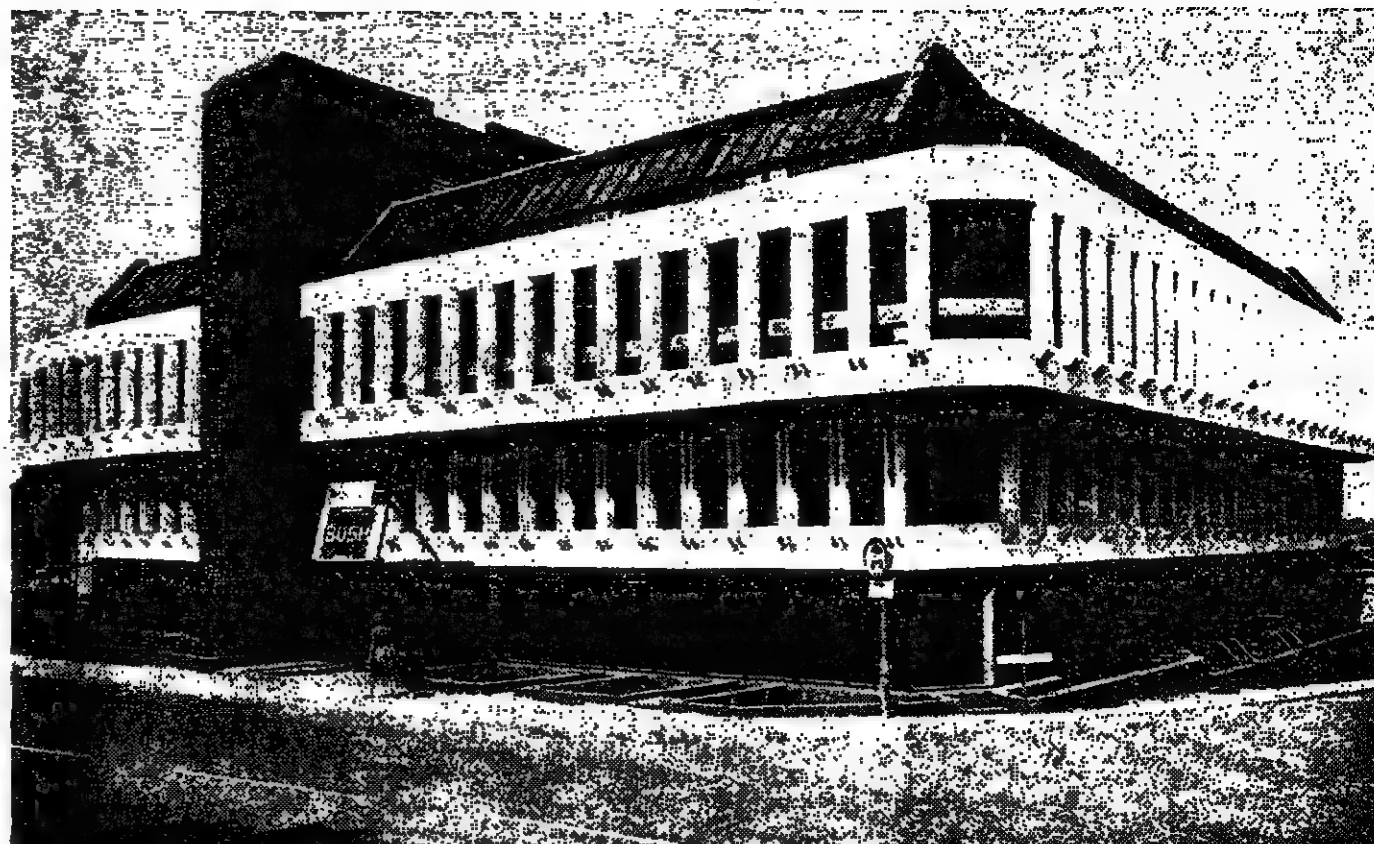
Having studied the original formulae for arriving at liability to DLT, the new provisions allow the Paymaster General to assist considerably. In the final amendments he has recognised (under pressure from the British Property Federation) that land purchase prices are not restricted solely to the consideration paid to the vendor. And he has allowed for some of the extra costs.

Under Clause 6 the landowner can now add to his purchase price the costs of improvement such as the cost of applying for planning permissions. But, in addition, he can now add an amount not exceeding 60 per cent. of the original cost (or 40 per cent. if the land was bought after September 12, 1974) at the rate of 15 per cent. per year (or 10 per cent. for post 1974 purchases) to take into account the cost of financing over the interim period.

Exemption

The concession is a major one. Coupled with the new exemption from DLT of all developments with a liability value of less than £10,000 and the special proviso that liability of less than £150,000 per annum is taxed at only 66⅔ per cent. many landowners may now escape DLT altogether or many find that their liability under the tax is less than either their liability under Development Gains Tax or under Corporation Tax. The special addition of 60 per cent. or 40 per cent. is an interim measure only, applicable until 1977, but it is nonetheless important.

For those few developers who cannot suspend their building programmes there is one other concession that can be taken into account. The developer does not become liable to DLT until 12 months after development has started (to give him a



A Vectra Estates office development in Norwich (above) is to be let by Jones, Lang, Wootton and Savills for £68,000 a year. Butterfly House in Croydon (below) was let by Strutt and Parker following the decision of Wiggins Teape to relocate in Basingstoke.

chance to accrue the revenue out of which to pay the tax) and where the development is on land held prior to White Paper Day he may choose to pay the tax in 8 or 16 equal instalments spread over 8 years, interest free.

Developers who start building on land which they have bought at market value will also not be liable to the Tax if they start development within three years of the purchase.

Most of the concessions, it is clear, are intended to mitigate the retrospective nature of the Act with the exception of the exemption for industrialist owner-occupiers but not for owner-occupiers undertaking any form of trade. The argument is apparently that Britain needs to promote factory development.

The property world is disillusioned by the unwillingness of this Government to accept their view that the country's future depends, not on an industrial base alone but on an amalgam of industry and commerce which are simply two halves of the same game. They are also disillusioned by their complete failure to argue the point that tax losses ought to be offsettable against any liability to Development Land Tax.

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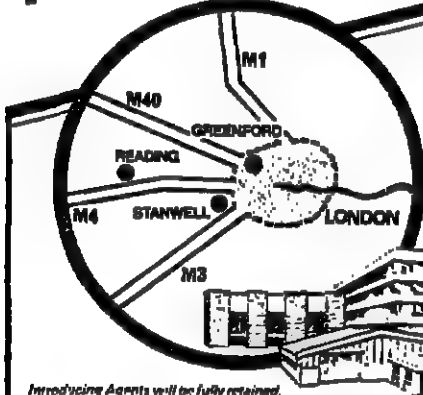
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Question marks over the companies

THE LONG-TERM future of the quoted property company as a suitable means of investing in property has come under question in recent months — not admittedly for the first time — but with an apparent immediacy and relevance now as two institutions are bidding for companies and there are still many doubts about future prospects for development.

The death of the property company was first predicted in the mid-1960s on the introduction of corporation tax. While a few companies were voluntarily wound up then (and United Real, for example, considered such a move) the sector has certainly not withered away. Indeed, as Mr. Patrick Galvin of de Zoete and Bevan pointed out in a speech earlier this year, the number of companies quoted in London had only fallen from 159 to 107 between March, 1966, and this year. Many companies have grown very much larger while the disappearances are to a large extent explained by bids within the sector.

Disappeared

In the last decade only six companies have disappeared into institutions — Sterling Estates being taken over by the Royal Insurance; Holloway Sackville by Commercial Union; Western Ground Rents by the BP Pension Fund; a majority stake in Aquila by Guardian Royal Exchange; Cavendish Land by Legal and General; and Edger Investments by the Prudential. Two further names may be added to the list this year with the takeover of Artagen by Sun Life and Wellfare's bid for Keith and Henderson.

This is hardly an avalanche, though parts or more improbably — the whole of some of the 10 property companies whose quotes are now suspended may go to institutions. However, it is now argued by some that the whole position has changed and the latest forerunner of the property company's demise is Mr. Mark Weinberg, managing director of Hambro Life. He maintains that in the aftermath of the end of what he calls the "Golden Era" which finished in December, 1973, on the announcement of the development gains tax, "it is difficult to make out a case for the continued existence of major property companies as holders of investment property" — although they may well have a considerable future in some other role.

Mr. Weinberg argues that the phenomenal growth of quoted property companies between the passing of the Town and Country Planning Act of 1953 and the end of 1973 reflected a combination of the ability to secure the benefit of planning gain and to defer tax (in effect indefinitely), the scope for site assembly in a partly unsophisticated market, a continuing

sharp rise in values and the continued willingness of institutions to provide long-term finance.

The tax structure introduced by the 1965 Finance Act, Mr. Weinberg added, struck what was in reality a lethal blow to the property company as a sensible way to hold property, but "the advantages of long-term funds borrowed at low rates of interest and the continuing profitability of developments masked this fact" despite the chipping away at the benefits by institutions and local authorities. Indeed, a number of new companies thrived in the conditions of the early 1970s with the rapid rise in values and the ability to roll-up interest during the course of development.

The changes introduced since 1973 by taxing planning gain have reinforced the inherent tax penalty, according to Mr. Weinberg. His view is that for the institutions, which are the main property company shareholders and providers of capital, holding shares is a very inefficient way to invest in property. Thus 52 per cent of a property company's rental income has gone in tax before it reaches a pension fund shareholder as dividend, though the fund would pay no tax. Some 60 per cent of the rent would have gone in tax before reaching the policyholders of a life company, normally paying tax at 37½ per cent. There are similar disadvantages on capital account.

Mr. Weinberg also maintains that property shares have the further disadvantage for institutions of volatility and that this point is becoming more important as valuation and solvent margin regulations are tightened. He also claims that a building can often be more liquid than a block of shares; gearing is irrelevant for an institution, and there are also a number of tax disadvantages for individuals compared with, for example, buying units in a property bond fund.

In contrast, Mr. Weinberg says that the range of property companies which might survive could include developers acting far more in the role of an ordinary industrial company, manufacturing and selling a product. Moreover, despite the Community Land Act and the probability of increased institutional expertise, there will still be entrepreneurs wanting to work on their own. But their companies are likely to be slimmer than previously with the aim of trading on their completed developments rather than building up large investment portfolios because of the problems of deficit financing.

The other group of possible survivors includes the combined construction and property company, as is common on the Continent. In addition, there are companies with secondary property and financing problems, which no institution would want to take over. But apart from these, the institutions are likely to have the cash flow for large-scale developments, while acquiring existing companies is a convenient way to buy good quality property in a big lump.

Mr. Weinberg's thesis has been criticised on several grounds — in particular, it has been argued that the tax penalties are in practice offset by extensive reliefs. For example, outgoings on developments are frequently charged against revenue for tax purposes and then recouped from reserves for dividends; June, there were sharp differences in the relative record. And in an attempt to facilitate comparisons between companies with similar characteristics, brokers de Zoete and Bevan have suggested classification on the basis of the rate of dividend being paid and the ratio of net borrowings to estimated property assets.

The first category includes companies with borrowings less than 40 per cent of property assets and dividends being increased by the maximum permitted and includes Artagen, Percy Dalton, Great Portland, Heston, Land Securities, Scottish Metropolitan, Stock Conversion and United Real. The companies in this category in late April accounted for 64 per cent of the total property sector stock market capitalisation, 31 per cent of gross assets and 47 per cent of diluted equity assets. In general, these companies have performed reasonably well over the past couple of years, following patterns similar to leading industrial blue chips.

The second category in the de Zoete classification includes companies where borrowings are more than 40 per cent of property assets, with dividends at least being maintained and includes Beaumont, Berkley, Hambro, Bristol Estate, Chesham, English Property, Hammerson, Law Land and Bernard Sunley. These companies accounted for 19 per cent of the total market capitalisation in April and a

CONTINUED ON NEXT PAGE

minimising taxable income. While few development companies are paying much corporation tax they do suffer from disadvantages on the Capital Gains Tax side. So overall, the tax argument is not clearcut and has anyway applied for the last decade.

The question, as Mr. Weinberg has pointed out, is rather more whether the tax arguments have since 1974 been reinforced by other constraints such as legislation and a changed financial environment. It is possible, however, to argue, as a recent review from Joseph Sebag does, that holding property shares and direct investment are complementary rather than mutually exclusive.

But there seems little doubt that the underlying framework has changed significantly since 1973 and that, on the one hand, large amounts of bank finance will not be available to finance the growth of companies on a deficit basis and that legislation has now severely limited the scope for making large capital profits from planning gain on new schemes.

So the number of new entrants may be severely limited, and those that appear are likely to take only a small part of the equity from an institution. Although the alleged management skills of developers have been partly discredited in the last couple of years, some institutions may prefer to use independent entrepreneurs as partners in smaller schemes, even if not in the larger projects which are more likely to be undertaken directly with local authorities (as long as current legislation lasts).

This still, of course, leaves the existing companies. Although the founders and main shareholders of the family controlled groups may now be

willing to give up independence since they see the gains of the last 20 years, to be a slow process, there will always be much scope for development if only the rebuilding properties, by groups, while some and their share price content to allow the come semi-dormant investment trust there are already examples.

It is of course a guessing game to victim but curious may have been retaken by Artagen. The bid for Artagen, though so long and I that some institutions to secure a Board's before they make a where there are similarities in cancelling long-term loans, and panies may also have point that resistance the price up. At a would be surprising were not at least property companies the end of the decade

Peter

Lack-lustre market

June, there were sharp differences in the relative record. And in an attempt to facilitate comparisons between companies with similar characteristics, brokers de Zoete and Bevan have suggested classification on the basis of the rate of dividend being paid and the ratio of net borrowings to estimated property assets.

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PROPERTY VII

Search for true values

great pity that so many investors, policyholders or members of an occupational pension scheme have a direct interest in seeing that valuation techniques are used in a proper manner. The matter is clearly of importance to a cornerstone of the banking system and private sector.

"The property market has been restricted to such a degree that it is not possible to determine an open market value for investment properties. These are shown in the balance sheet at £209.3m. based on 1973 valuations." That was what the last annual report of Amalgamated Investment and Property had to say before it was found that assets would not match borrowings of £110m.

Formula

Both the Incorporated Society of Valuers and Auctioneers and the Royal Institution of Chartered Surveyors have made continuing efforts to at least produce a common formula which members can make the basis of their work. The "open market" principle is now sure to predominate, with the option that if departing from the meaning of his qualifying words. This has been incorporated in the new City Takeover Code, and practised in the Artogen bid. It has been accepted by the Sandilands Committee as will become part of standard accounting practice. It will be used in insurance company regulations. It is surely an improvement on the various other systems, notably the willing buyer/willing seller one which would clearly tend to produce higher values except in the headiest of markets.

The central difficulty lies in how to value when there is no market, open or otherwise. Recently there was a period of nine months when, apart from transactions between property companies trying to de-gear and associated institutions, which could provide no open market

comparables, the level of activity was too thin in most sectors to provide any accurate guide. Without forecasting that a 1974-style collapse of the market will return, there could be other reasons why, for a period of some months the institutions stayed out of the property market.

Should one assume that the demand must return? Clearly that could dangerously perpetuate a false set of values. But there are equally difficulties if no assumption is made. To take a specific case, the P & O accounts in May told shareholders that five large City buildings — the P & O headquarters, Navigation House, Beaufort House, Commerce and Industry House and Three Quays, plus one off Trafalgar Square — were mainly carried in the balance sheet at valuations made by Jones Lang Wootton in 1972 and 1973.

Having taken the advice of the same agents (though without a full valuation exercise) P & O stated that values have fallen by 55 per cent. The explanation was that "while the market for well-let properties is improving, there is still no real market for units in excess of £10m., and the application of current rental values and yields would bring out a substantial reduction estimated at 55 per cent on the figure of £106m. at which these properties are included in the balance sheet." But P & O took the view, supported by the valuers, that things would improve. It decided not to write down the values.

That is fine for a shipping company, with no immediate intention to sell the buildings and using much of the space itself. But it would not have done for a property group. Yet, even if there was not a real market for £10m-plus properties then there is now. And on two City deals revealed this month, City Gate House and the Hambros buildings, J.L.W. acted.

Credibility

The BPF will put up a stout defence, but the big guns stand behind the "independent annual" school of thought. It could be argued that the property companies, if forced to accept, will gain from increased credibility, providing their portfolios can stand up after the past three years to

real scrutiny.

But no major change such as this is without dangers. The men leading the valuers are the top people of their profession. If they get their way, are all firms going to behave to the highest standards, reckoning that there is no negotiated fee which buys their name on a certificated valuation? There could be financial pressure every bit as strong as that which a board could put on a surveyor staff member.

With the split in management and valuation functions already insisted on for property bonds, will there not follow a call for a similar total split in the valuation job and any other work for a company? Valuers to a major company would be a desirable role, but what if it meant giving up the chance of agency fees from that company?

And, in Stock Market terms, providing property companies are still rated mainly for their assets, is there not a danger that dealers, knowing that Valuer X has been bullish on one regional office company already will quickly bail out of any similar group with results soon and buy some other reporting company because Valuer Y is known to take a rosy view on industrialists this month?

That would represent the logical absurdity to the anti-valuation school. "The value of an asset, as a property investment, is one which produces a continuing annual net profit; certainly not a theoretical valuation of a hypothetical market value in the near or distant future," thundered the Percy Bilton annual report last month.

It may be that those who concentrate more on rents passing and less on market feel, and those accused of falling "to distinguish between the science of valuing income and the art of pricing space" nevertheless had something sensible to stress to the valuers whose responsibilities are to be hugely increased. Greenwell and Co.'s report which put the DCF and compound interest arguments effectively enough to make a deep impression in some quarters did so, it said, because in the uncertain market at the time the report was issued, such techniques were particularly applicable. The methods used are known well enough for taking investment decisions; perhaps applied more generally to valuations they could take some of the potential volatility out of the annual valuation pattern.

Q.G.

Market

CONTINUED FROM PREVIOUS PAGE

quarter of its equity assets and also have sizeable short- and medium-term debt.

The third category covers companies paying no more than a nominal dividend and includes British Land, Capital and Counties, MEPC, Peachey, Regional, Samuel, Town and City and Town and Commercial. These companies accounted for 17 per cent of the market capitalisation but 28 per cent of the equity assets and 38 per cent of gross assets—and are also responsible for nearly two-thirds of the short- and medium-term debt.

The differences between the

various categories are also reflected in differing discounts to net worth—the weighted average discount for the first group in late April being 25 per cent, 57 per cent for the second group and 66 per cent for the third. These figures would vary not only with changes in share prices but also with movements in underlying values having a greater proportionate effect on the net worth of the more highly geared companies.

After the disappointing overall performance, sentiment seems to have improved in the past few weeks as the index is now roughly a fifth above its 1976 low. This change

reflects the belief that the worst is now definitely over despite the continuing problems of, for example, Town and Commercial, and Town and City's proposal to alter its borrowing powers.

In a recent review brokers Rowe and Pitman, Hurst-Brown argued that as each month passes more companies are improving their borrowing positions and the full effects on revenue accounts of the ending of the rent freeze, property sales and lower interest rates are now being seen.

The brokers believe the improving revenue prospects and the recent rise in property values have still to be reflected in the share prices of the better quality companies, picking out Chesterfield, Land Securities, Property Holding and Investment, Property and Reversionary and Slough Estates.

A similar argument highlighting the improving underlying tone of values has also been made by Joseph Sebag and Co. and Quilter Hilton Goodison. The evidence of a fall in yields on good quality medium sized properties, stabilisation of rent and continuing large sales (notably, recently, by English Property, Berkeley Hambro and Chesterfield) is certainly building up, while more attention is focusing on the longer term impact of the cutback in development on rents. But while property shares have been strong performers in the later stages of previous bull markets, few analysts seem to expect a rapid rise in the immediate future.

P.R.

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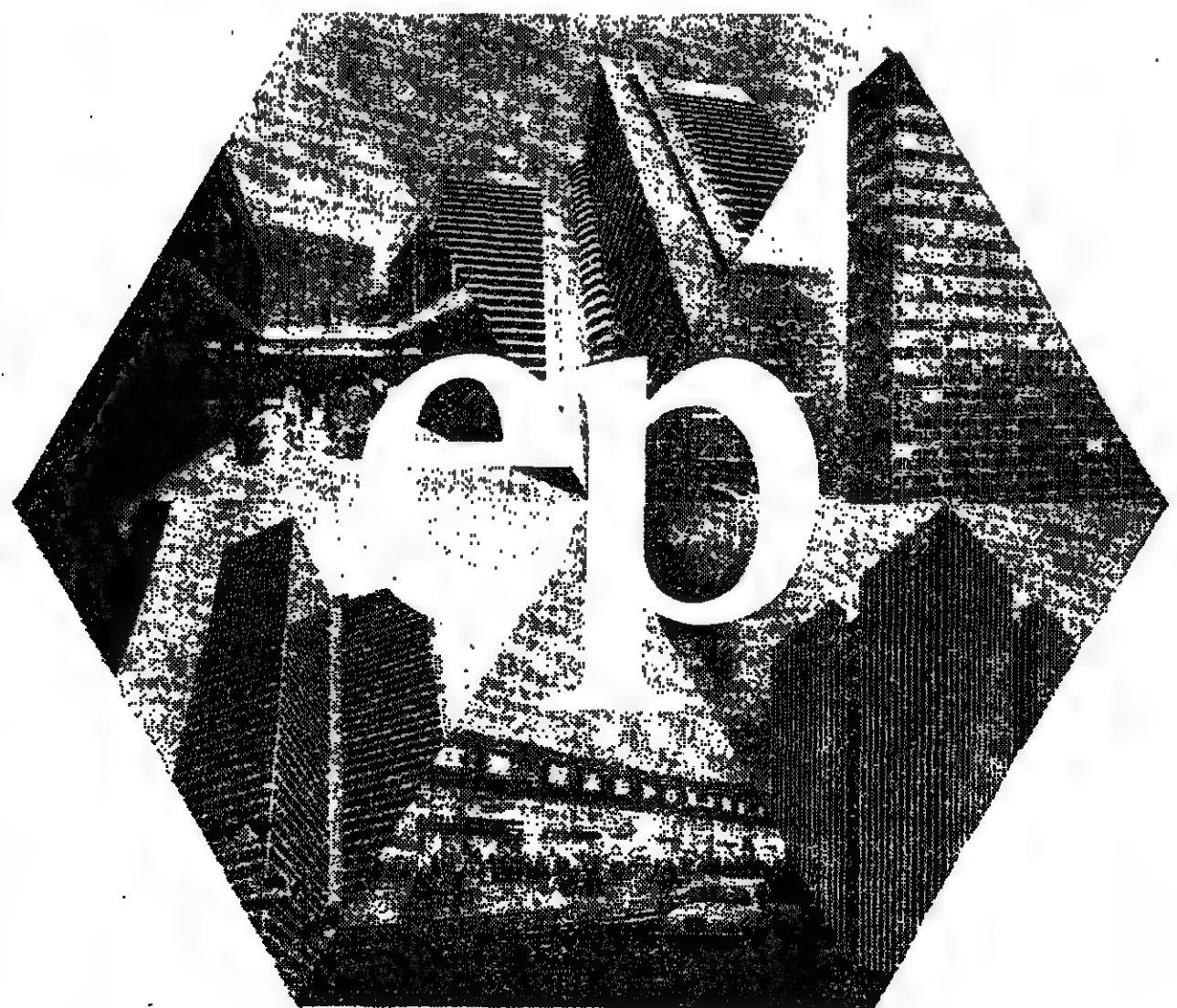
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South East leads office market

THE COMPETITION among investing institutions for well-let offices in the South-East and in some London suburbs has been a feature of the past year. The best City and West End properties have recently regained some favour as evidence of letting demand, particularly for large units, reminded the market that the capital is an international business centre in which international companies, particularly British and U.S. ones, wish to expand despite the vagaries of the British economy.

Outside the South-East, created office investments in favoured regional centres proved easier to sell as the year went on, and at lower investment yields, while Scotland has shown itself a special case, with rental and investment demand being very strong in Edinburgh, Aberdeen and, increasingly, in Glasgow.

But the South-East remains the office centre of Britain. Central London alone contains a quarter of the commercial office space in the whole of England and Wales. The rest of London and the South-East contain as much again (in fact a bit more, so that London and the South-East between them have, on inland revenue floor-space figures, comfortably over half the offices in England and Wales).

Since this is also, pro rata, much the most valuable floor-space in Britain, the keys to the future market in office property must lie here. The institutions, in renewing their search for office investments, first turned to the South-East because this dominant position will be maintained, even if the percentage of office occupations against other sorts of work may rise

faster in other regions. Planning policies appear to almost guarantee that prime space in the South-East will remain in short supply.

To talk of shortages at a time when there is enough surplus space on the market to produce, even in the South-East, a continuing weakness in rental values in some areas, may seem contradictory. But much of what is empty is badly located or otherwise unsuitable, and it would have a marginal influence on the supply position should demand truly pick up along with the economy.

History has shown — most notably with the Brown Ban — that it does not take long for a restricted office development programme to be followed by a boom in office values, as tenants, to whom rent still represents a small proportion of turnover, scramble for what space is available and fear that it may get even more expensive if they delay a decision to lease. In this recession, the position is complicated by the fact that the supply of new office developments in the South-East is being held back not merely, or even mainly, by planning policies, but by building, land, tax and money costs which appear to demand a rise in rental levels by at least a quarter before development becomes an economic proposition again.

It is not really possible to foresee a continuing situation in which Britain admits that she cannot build office blocks economically, placing development in the same bracket as, say, shipbuilding. The demand for better quality, better located space, will eventually mean that employers will pay the price for what they hope will produce greater efficiency and the power to attract better staff.

So there would appear to be, with the one crucial proviso of economic recovery, the likelihood of sharp upward movement in office rents, maybe next

OFFICE DEVELOPMENT PERMITS

GREATER LONDON (000 square feet)				SOUTH EAST (000 square feet)			
	Number	Gross	Relinquished		Number	Gross	Relinquished
1973				1973			
1st quarter	75	3,637	643	1st quarter	149	6,883	851
2nd quarter	77	4,216	134	2nd quarter	121	6,509	266
3rd quarter	55	2,729	819	3rd quarter	107	4,853	1,004
4th quarter	56	3,096	1,815	4th quarter	90	7,548	2,123
1974				1974			
1st quarter	31	2,106	407	1st quarter	47	2,976	549
2nd quarter	16	585	100	2nd quarter	21	1,235	116
3rd quarter	45	3,115	296	3rd quarter	100	5,569	501
4th quarter	31	1,332	35	4th quarter	58	2,140	84
1975				1975			
1st quarter	31	1,651	218	1st quarter	62	2,470	328
2nd quarter	46	3,520	239	2nd quarter	75	4,430	263
3rd quarter	47	2,253	64	3rd quarter	87	3,407	71
4th quarter	46	2,873	369	4th quarter	78	3,567	352
1976				1976			
1st quarter	79	4,049	564	1st quarter	79	4,049	564

year, maybe later. This is not to subscribe to the pure cost-push notion of rental levels — that since to produce an economic return on development rents must be £ — per square foot, therefore that is what they will be. It is only to take the established evidence that office accommodation is a market in which a small imbalance of supply and demand can have a disproportionate effect on the price of the product.

The 1970s have already seen what were, proportionally, among the largest increases in rental values in the post-war period, and what were certainly the sharpest falls.

Without relaxing ODP criteria, the new system may allow an office project to progress right up to the point where building could start before having an approved tenant. A change here might in part cut the stalemate of developers looking for tenants to support planning applications and potential tenants being unwilling to support ODPs just because they know that the ODP procedure, plus planning procedure, plus building time is going to take the occupation date beyond both their administrative forward planning and the length of years they are prepared to gamble with costs.

So it would be a welcome change, cutting the lead time needed for commerce and industry to rationalise or relocate its office needs. But in the present funding climate its impact on development would be slow. Besides, the details have not yet appeared, and it may take legislation to introduce the modified system.

Meanwhile, the disadvantages of the present system were presented, very clearly, by the steering committee responsible for *The Office Location Review*. Apart from distorting the market in the least healthy way, toward higher rents and greater

trend of the exemption limit, but which may have limited impact due to the 10,000 square feet cut-off in the Development Land Tax.

This was not a change suggested by the steering committee, but the Department of the Environment is at present pursuing another modification. The committee made it clear that it considered this a second-best solution, the virtue of it lying in "importing to the ODP system some of the advantages of the occupational permit scheme," the committee's first choice. The modification proposed would allow a developer to find a tenant with an ODP later in the planning process.

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cyclicity, it is doubtful whether the ODP system is effective in dispersing office employment from around the capital.

For instance, when the committee investigated 41 companies whose ODP applications were rejected, 24 subsequently obtained an ODP on the same site or in central London, 11 did not move, only six moved out of London and none out of the South-East.

This year and next, the position may look a little more favourable. Last week's Location of Offices Bureau report showed a rise in companies moving beyond the 30 mile radius from London, and with the amounts of vacant space at low rents available in centres like Bristol, Birmingham and Bournemouth-Poole, it would be surprising if that trend did not continue in the immediate future.

But this does not mean that the ODP policy is suddenly proving effective. The steering committee thought that the momentum for moving out of London was likely to increase anyway, with factors like labour, transport and property costs running in favour of the regions.

Less rigorous planning control in the South-East, which would, given the eventual revival of development, provide a greater supply of offices and hence more stable values, does not change these basic reasons for relocation.

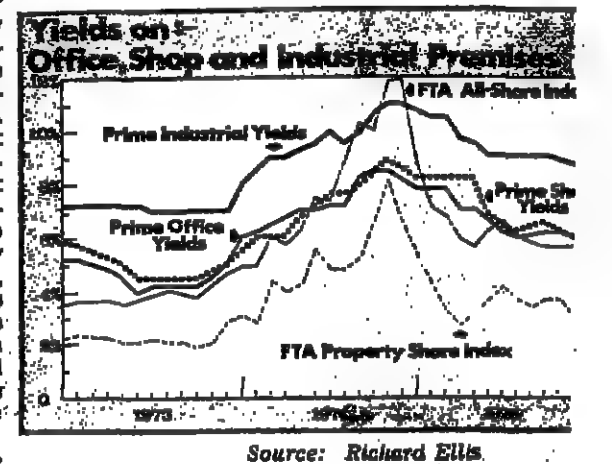
So, with further evidence such as the steering committee's forecast that the Assisted Areas would never pick up many jobs from the South-East, whatever the incentives, and that these areas would anyway enjoy a substantial indigenous rise in

office employment, with a system which persuades very few change their plans and at the same time an artificially high

In addition, the Group pointed out that structure plan 5 provide what ought better instrument for office distribution South-East; and the policy was formulated whereas now it is jobs and population away.

Even if it is politically able to see more jobs capital, present procedures do not who do not wish what is already a supply of suitable space. Leaving funding delays, schedule for reloc central London to built block in the 5, likely to be around a year to get an C for the planning another year for inquiry, and two building. It is makes companies a chance of making the chance of saving

With these barriers purpose-built relocation and with the decline development comp to pursue both funding, the pressure appears to be for an unhealthy shortage perhaps two years



Source: Richard Ellis.

Rents are slack

A YEAR ago landlords of vacant offices, or those with tenanted buildings approaching rent reviews, had little on their side but hope. Demand, with isolated exceptions like Edinburgh and Aberdeen, was so slow that the period, to accept a tenant at virtually any rental, to give away long rent free periods to get him, and to be extra polite to your backers and the Property Services Agency.

In the excitement of a reviving market, the fact that this position has not materially altered in many areas can be overlooked. But the steady climb in space available since 1974 has probably barely been halted even now. Leaving aside central London, the Location of Offices Bureau figures, produced from space on its register, give an indication of the pattern: 14.2m. square feet in January 1974; 18.7m. square feet in 1975; and 20.6m. square feet this year.

Those include totals like 3.2m. square feet in the North West, 3.1m. square feet in the West Midlands, 2.3m. square feet in the South West and 2.3m. square feet in the Outer Metropolitan area. It would be surprising if those totals had diminished much by now. In Birmingham the blocks are still coming out of the ground.

Good locations can show sharp increases in rent from what are low compared with the past four years of the supply is so much that a little such increases are a time and a price virtually any space healthy economy in jobs take up an important portion of the labour the last boom saw located offices built before. Over the we may see an exasperated market, even space.

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But in most areas, while the rent free periods may be contracting or reverse premiums mentioned less, the bulk of office property on the market is still being offered at or below the rents of a year ago and certainly below the expectations

of schemes started years back. Many starting to suffer potent disadvantage — elephant stigma — simply been empty this not to put second thoughts in of potential takers. Much of this dept of resources will be a time and a price virtually any space healthy economy in jobs take up an important portion of the labour the last boom saw located offices built before. Over the we may see an exasperated market, even space.

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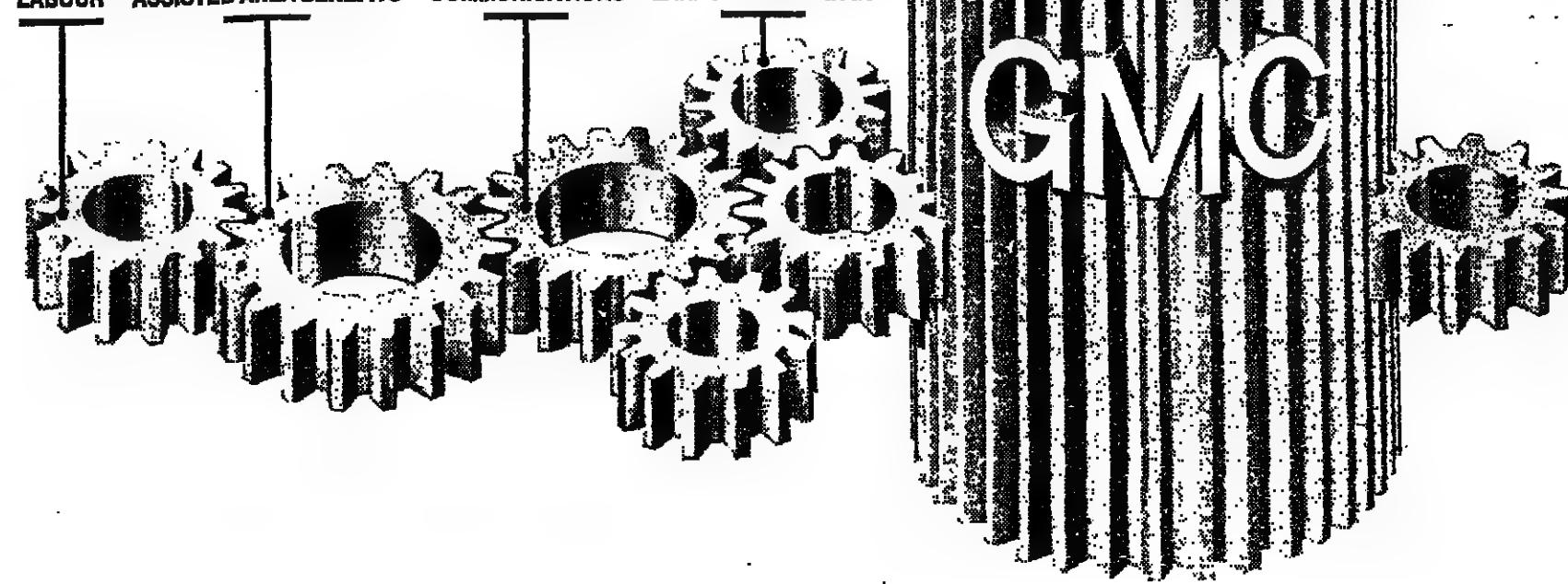
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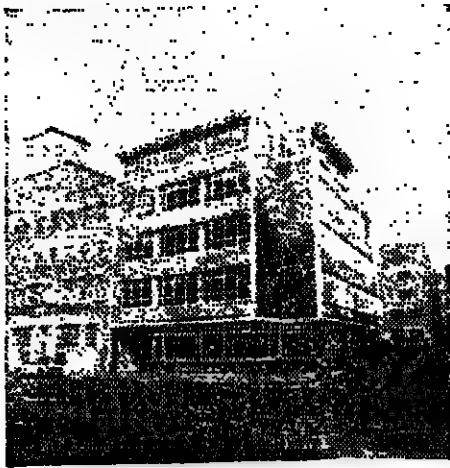
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PROPERTY X

Farmers cautious on tenancy

FEW PRIVATE landlords will wish to continue letting their farms to tenants, once the full implications of the fiscal disadvantages of recent Budgets have sunk in. Besides there is the probability that they will never get their tenants out for a couple of generations if the present Agriculture Miscellaneous Provisions Bill reaches the Statute Book.

The Bill includes a clause that sons, or other close relatives of a tenant farmer, will have the right to apply for the tenancy and be almost certain of getting it. The message is getting through and is illustrated by the difference in values of land between that sold with vacant possession and that sold already let. The latter often makes a half or a third of the vacant possession value.

This does give landlords who do not wish to sell farms which come into their possession a powerful incentive to farm themselves. This is reinforced by the present high prices of all farm products and the obvious prosperity of many farmers. There are few of the complaints of a year or so ago and there is no doubt that a great many farmers have never had it so good, in that they can pay their debts and keep their machinery up to date out of present profits.

But one should not be deluded by this apparent prosperity. Most of the farmers in this happy situation are sitting on land of very low historic cost. Their investment in livestock and machinery was also made in pre-inflation times. Since the late 1960s the cost of farming inputs, labour, machinery, fuel, fertilisers, feed and so on has risen three and four times while the date grain is up less than three, milk double and beef just about three.

The only reason farmers have not started complaining is that their accounting systems take no account of inflation and their costs are always from 12 months to several years in arrears.

Because British farming is now tied in with the EEC's Common Agricultural Policy the future course of prices is probably upwards. The rise could be between 20 and 25 per cent. at the end of the transitional period always provided that the currency differences which confound all rational

assessment of trends are settled. But there are two qualifications. Any rise in the price of grain will automatically raise the price of animal feeds on which the British livestock industry is very dependent. There are also signs that the market for the EEC products which are directly guaranteed—milk, beef, wheat and sugar—has reached the limit of consumer demand at present prices.

Mountains

The milk and butter mountains are already notorious. What is not so well known is that beef is also in heavy oversupply. Something like 9 per cent. of the weekly kill is now being taken into intervention in Europe, and unless the drought is indefinitely prolonged there will be a sizeable sugar surplus.

The EEC Commission has already proposed that dairy farmers should help pay for the disposal of their own surpluses and there is no doubt that once this measure is accepted, as it seems it will be, the principle will spread to other products in surplus and will have the effect

of limiting prices in real and in inflationary terms. British farmers will have to share in these measures although Britain is a net importer and so in theory has no surplus.

It is claimed that because British farms are in general larger than those in the rest of Europe, they are more efficient and could therefore survive better in a competitive situation such as would arise if the lower prices were allowed to bring economic pressure on the inefficient.

This proposition is a fallacy and a dangerous one. What determines competitive power in a farmer is the standard of living he is prepared to accept for his work. If the average Dutch dairy farmer for instance with 24 cows is prepared to compete with the average English farmer with 50 at the same price for milk there is nothing that will stop him.

In addition legislation in most of the European countries especially favours the smaller farmer and in some instances, notably in France, is actively hostile to the formation of what we should call large-scale units. The higher grain prices will



Harvest on a farm in Sussex. Many farmers "have never had it so good" they are sitting on land of very low historic cost.

also present difficulties to British livestock farmers who have done very well building up intensive units of pigs, poultry and so on which until recently had been based on cheaper imported supplies of feed grain. Most of this production has reverted to family enterprise where labour costs are often not counted. There is also the difficulty that pig and poultry products receive very little direct aid in the EEC.

These points illustrate a probable trend towards family enterprises in British farming. This is not to say that the landowner taking his farm in hand would not be able to compete with his family farming neighbour at common prices, but a great deal would depend on how well he controlled his overheads.

If he managed the farm himself, and particularly if it was an arable farm of viable size and the present grain prices continued, things would not be so difficult. But once he got into the livestock side he could well be at a disadvantage to the family farm either here or in Europe.

It is not generally realised how little management per se the average professional farmer actually does. He does not cost his time, office work is kept to the minimum necessary, say half a day a week. If he is good at the job, and most of them are, he knows what is

going on and it all comes naturally. If owner is not farm, he has to interpose between the farmer and the market structure himself and the farming. Such structures are not too much of the problem. This is realised as to an increase in the of partnerships between lords and professions, which ensure the properly farmed farmer carries a fair share of the risk. These are originally to avoid the liability of tenancies, but are made part of a policy. There is nothing new in this which is what it has had a bad reputation in some of its very common forms in other ways statutorily controlled.

The partnership cover a whole of different conditions from a straight profit participation to a portion of the output. Partnerships are going to stay it would be having some mode of government before ment takes a hand.

John Ch...

Shop sites more vital than ever

THE RECESSION has had less effect on the turnover of retailers than many in the property industry expected. In practice rental demand has held up well, though landlords have been worried by the covenant of some of the newer breed of tenant.

Premiums may have been harder to attain when assigning leases on some prime frontages, and some high streets appear to have shrunk further, turning what were considered a few years back as almost top locations into distinctly secondary ones.

But the rental values of the best units have moved ahead of 1973-74 levels and despite a

marked weakness in rents on many secondary retail properties, the general picture is of a steady retail demand curbed only, in some locations, by what are seen as excessive rates.

In investment popularity, the retail sector, having probably seemed to merit slightly higher yields at the start of the falling pattern of the last 15 months, quickly moved down to join those on offices. In the move to yields below 6 per cent., and again down to below 5 per cent. in some cases, retail investments seemed to lead the way.

This popularity, whether or not yields move lower, is likely to be maintained both through the long investment record of retail properties and because the definition of prime is a tight one and becoming, if anything, tighter. One hundred feet either side of Marks and Spencer is not the only definition, but there must be a growing shortage of frontages which satisfy all institutional requirements in their most common, 30 feet by 100 feet unit, choice of investment.

Nor is the range of tenants for such pitches liable to alter very much, restricted to the high margin, high rent payers such as fashion, footwear and jewellery, and they are unlikely to find new "magnet" stores to be beside.

The picture is of a restricted market in terms of location in both senses of the position within a street and also within less than 50 cities. There appears, despite a political climate where some form of Price Code may be here to stay, to be no special reason why the best of these retail pitches should lose their appeal either to retailers or to investors.

It is interesting that Bond Street, a classic example of a street where it appeared that even its location could not prevent a grave weakness in property values during a period when its traditional tenants were being overtaken by the change of fashion from couture to jeans or simply the cut in luxury spending, has in fact revived quite comfortably, the tourist trade being among its saviours.

Portfolio

The value of this most traditional form of property investment has been illustrated this year in one of the few statistical studies of the retail sector. Done by David Kerr, of Healey and Baker, among its examples is a portfolio based on seven different units: one is in a town in the South East where the cancellation of a major development had caused some recent downturn in rental values; three are in the Home Counties in prime or near-prime positions; two more are in the North, where conversely new developments which have been achieved have diluted the monopoly value of the best trading pitches; and the seventh is a 100 per cent. trading position in an East Anglian town.

The proviso in calculating the investment performance since 1962 which Kerr allowed was to assume five-year rent reviews, uncommon at the beginning of the period.

Allowing for purchase costs, Kerr reckoned that the investor would have seen a net yield of 6 per cent. from 1962 to 1967, 9 per cent. for the next five years, and 17.2 per cent. since 1972. At the 1977 rent review, he forecast that the yield on

the portfolio would rise to 25 per cent. Using a DCF calculation, the average yield over the period comes out at just under 12 per cent., where the yield on Consols in 1961 and 1962 was 6 per cent.

But having shown the growth record of traditional retail investments, Kerr went on to study the less fashionable (though Debenhams managed a string of sale and leaseback deals during the year) investment sector of department stores. He concluded that the drawing together of the trading patterns of department and variety stores must be to the advantage of the former's rental value. He calculates anyway that the growth from department stores has been commensurate with that for shop units since 1962.

Follow

On food stores, Kerr deduced that the smaller units' rental values follow the retail price index, whereas with the larger, more modern stores, the initial rents follow the construction index. Clearly it is hard to draw any certain conclusions from any operation so new, but Kerr produced some evidence indicating an 85 per cent. growth in rental value since 1972 on the Caerphilly Carrefour hypermarket.

These examples from non-traditional areas of retail investment are some indication that perhaps the general view of the prime retail investment is too limited. Kerr offered the advice that he would mix into a shop portfolio department stores, food stores and, if the fund was large enough, as many of the best shopping centres as he could.

Some institutions have, of course, taken his advice, and sales from property companies of smaller shopping centres have continued in the last year, while funding for isolated large projects has also been agreed. But the demise of town centre schemes places institutions in a difficult position.

Brent Cross has proved, apart from its initial success, that such a project is too long and difficult to be started again in to-day's climate. The more likely development of retailing trends is toward a few very large units, most of them having few intrinsic attractions either in location or quality of building. They will be, in fact, anything but suitable under investors' normal criteria, in much the same way as supermarkets had been rated at around double the yield of prime high street locations.

The retailers, on the whole, appear quite happy to develop the superstores themselves, and have gained an added incentive in the investment relief afforded in the new Price Code proposals. Having enjoyed such low rents because of their magnetism to city centre schemes, the major food-based retailers will do their own hypermarket developments, broaden the range of products they sell still further, and are likely, with the Department of the Environment's new blessing announced last week, to gain more planning consents even in the South.

This may not, in the foreseeable future, detract from the rental values of the prime high street sites. But it will certainly narrow still further the number of those investments.

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PROPERTY XI

Housing outlook is not encouraging

IS an area which has been left quietly but to be seen again. Average house prices rose by anything up to 12 to 18 months. For the efforts of the Ministry of the Environment Ministers to stimulate output and return it to acceptable levels, it is at the question of has been forcibly released lower position in the list of political

ector's progress has been disappointing. There is reason to suspect, in some encouraging at the next year or be any different. h the estimates pre-organisations within vary substantially. usus appears to be und 150,000-160,000 comes will enter the programme this year at under 150,000 in further small improvement in the follow-up. Despite the modest upturn, the ivity levels will still be at around 80 per n on the last house-peak in 1972.

il r council housing in area where recent is consistently beaten unance recorded in the sector, the outlook is even less encour-ast year, a start was 174,000 local authority figure which in 1976 d to drop back slightly. Larger reductions ht likely in the follow-ears.

housing completions just over 162,000 in sure which should be this year and at least 1978. Beyond that the sure role of the local sector remains in th the outcome of the finance review still

assage then is hardly ibrated optimism and generalisations tend to be notable successes of ders, much of the in-mediate future could be difficult and uncertain. ve, the builders are in price for the 1977 the private housing 'on house prices were relation to incomes, li hopelessly short of and the building had mortgage funds l waiting. liders cashed in on a

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set of market conditions the potency of which had never before been known or is likely to be seen again. Average house prices rose by anything up to 50 per cent. and the builders' profit margins did handsomely.

Where the industry went wrong was in miscalculating both the length of time which the boom could be expected to last and the type of property which would be in demand. The hectic market was, inevitably, short-lived and many builders found themselves in serious difficulties, with expensive land stocks, high borrowings and high-priced homes for which there were no customers. It has taken since then for the market to sort itself out again, with the record stock of unsold homes slowly dwindling and finance being released for further development when the contractor has sufficient confidence to start work. In the meantime, prices have risen only very modestly, despite the massive increases in building society lending programmes. In real terms these programmes have fallen quite substantially.

There is little doubt that the current period of income restraint is affecting natural market forces. Without the current limitations, the housing market would be seeing a considerably higher rate of house price inflation than is now the

The builders at least would not be disappointed to see such a trend. The impossibility of their position, with costs rising rapidly since 1973 but house prices falling, is forcibly under-

lined by the current state of new house building activity. If the prospects for a reasonable margin look bad, builders will simply not build, as they have recently been demonstrating.

There is every indication that the demand for the homes they are building, and for second-hand homes, is as strong as ever, with transactions being recorded at very high levels. The cheaper end of the market is, predictably, attracting most attention.

However, that demand should not, for the time being at least, have any influence on prices. With incomes dampened down and future earnings expectations looking quite discouraging for most, the market is moving ahead in an entirely undramatic manner.

Some politicians have expressed satisfaction with the present state of affairs, suggesting that slow but steady progress may be a much better pattern to pursue than the erratic cycles of the past. But there is, in other spheres, some concern about what will happen if the present levels of output are allowed to continue for much longer.

Even after accepting the point that the actual need for new homes may soon be declining because of the increasing adequacy of the housing stock, some people believe that house builders must be encouraged to step up output if a short-term shortage of homes coming onto the market and a consequent further rapid escalation of house prices is to be avoided

in the next few years. While the building societies and the Government are committed to preventing any further explosions in house prices by tempering their lending to all the relevant market conditions, they also appreciate that without a reasonable increase in house prices, offering the builder the chance to recover costs and make some sort of profit, then housing output will continue to languish.

Societies

Already, the building societies are making some fairly ominous noises about their ability to go on lending as they have been over the last 18 months. While this year's lending programme — 20 per cent. up on 1975 — seems secure, next year could be a different proposition. Builders need little to shake their faith in confidence and the prospect of another mortgage shortage next year and beyond is hardly likely to lead to an increase in activity.

As if the house builders did not have troubles enough on the horizon, they continue to show concern about the effects of Development Land Tax, which they claim will lead to serious land shortages — many believe a total land famine — over the next two years.

The tax will, they say, add considerably to their cash-flow problems. Productive skills and time will be wasted in the industry, they feel in trying to

cope with the legislation and general confidence within the industry will again be damaged.

Throw in uncertainty about the repercussions of the Community Land Act and steadily lengthening delays in obtaining planning permission and the picture is complete.

The house builders, whose numbers reduce rapidly each time the industry hits a recession, were savagely mauled in the aftermath of the 1972 boom and are still smarting from the wounds, which some would claim, were largely self-inflicted.

While their experiences remain fresh in their minds and their annual accounts, the builders are unlikely to embark on any new drive which could have a marked effect on the house building rate over the next two or three years at least.

The private housing sector will, for the time being, remain a buyers' market with a relatively good supply of old and new homes still for sale. Unless there is a further substantial increase in general interest rates, building societies remain confident that they can maintain a lending programme large enough to support an active market well into 1977.

Neither builder nor house seller is going to make any fortunes in the months ahead as the market eases its way uncertainly forward. A little stability in the midst of so much turmoil is perhaps a welcome thing.

Michael Cassell

Estate agents meet public criticism

PITY, IF you can, the poor estate agent. His reputation—compared with his lot in life—is not a happy one. He bears the brunt of a great deal of sometimes justified but more often misguided criticism from a large sector of the community. Even when there is no question of malpractice concerned in the activities of any single agent in particular or of all of them in general, there is a feeling that these people are simply sitting back and taking a large fee for comparatively little effort. It is particularly true in a boom period, when almost any agent can sit back and watch the turnover mount up on the office till. Things are a little different in a period of recession. The property collapse of 1973-74 showed how easily the ranks of the agents are decimated in times of trouble. Only those who remained on the scene and were prepared to work very hard came out smiling.

Service

So there is a more fundamental point at issue. If the public thinks that an agent is not worth his money, why use one? That so many people do would suggest that it is much more convenient to put the business of selling or buying a house or commercial block into the hands of someone who can and will provide a genuine service. It is up to the public, therefore, to ask around the market to find out which are the more reliable agents. There are almost certainly more agents than the country needs, and the man in the street could do everyone a favour by simply killing off the lazy or negligent simply by not giving them any business.

But given that there is still no guarantee against malpractice even in the most respectable of businesses, and rather belatedly to protect the public, Parliament seems to be on the point of initiating some legislation after 70 years of abortive attempts. Recent scandals involving agents in the domestic and commercial fields have underlined the fact that some protection is necessary. (Incidentally one reason why such criticisms receive such great publicity is because of their relative infrequency: if one compares similar incidents in the legal and medical professions the agents come out as blue-eyed boys.)

Last November the Department of Prices and Consumer Protection published a consultative document "The Regulation of Estate Agency" to begin consultation with the various bodies concerned on this rather vexed subject. It is still being discussed, and there is as yet no inkling of a Bill to be backed by the Department. The main issues are bound to be the protection of deposits by buyers, the establishment of a compensation fund in the event of an agent doing a moonlight flit and the general "fitness" of any individual to act as an estate agent.

In the absence of a Government sponsored Bill, the MP for Ipswich, Mr. Ken Weech (who has also campaigned for greater freedom for the cut-price conveyancing firms) intends to introduce a private Bill which he hopes will be debated after the recess. The basic thinking and the main provision—the licensing of all agents—would seem to be the same as the Department's thinking.

But there are inherent weaknesses in the proposals from both sides. The basic one is the question of a licence: will this simply mean a licence to print money? There is nothing to prevent anyone from setting up business as an estate agent. So presumably if he keeps his nose clean and has no criminal record he will receive a licence. The public could well be fooled into thinking that this was some official seal of respectability.

This suggestion is doubly dangerous since the Department said in the Consultative Document that "it is not intended that any assessment should be made of professional competence." It is rather like giving a doctor licence to operate without looking at professional qualifications or experience. The professional bodies in the business, the Royal Institution of Chartered Surveyors and the Incorporated Society of Valuers, are not happy on this point. They are proud of the training

they give their members and on top of that they have their own code of conduct—even though they have no legal backing for its application.

This situation is closely linked with the question of who should police the licensing arrangement if it comes into force. The professional bodies see this as their area of influence. It is argued that the RICS, the ISVA and the National Association of Estate Agents could together form some kind of body capable of controlling the activities of all the country's estimated 35,000 agents.

The Department's attitude on this issue has yet to be clarified, but when Alan Williams, then Minister of State for Prices and Consumer Protection introduced the Consultative Document last November he made it clear that he was against the professional bodies policing their own members in the same fashion as the doctors and lawyers do. He argued for the setting up of a directorate within the Department to do the job: the professionals reckon that this is wasteful and superfluous. Perhaps there is some area in between where a compromise can be reached. While there is no certainty of being more fairly dealt with by a member of one of the recognised societies, it would be a pity if the lines are blurred between those who have worked hard for their professional qualifications and those who have not.

Commercial

While most of the emphasis in the debate is given to the activities of agents buying and selling houses—because this is where it affects most people directly—there is equal if not more concern about what is going on in the commercial field. The sums of money that change hands in this sector are considerably greater and there is greater scope for the unscrupulous to make a killing.

The basic question is that clients must be assured that they are receiving impartial advice. Under the present rules this does not always apply. Whereas in the great property boom days there was always the danger that the agent was also a developer and could be directing investment funds directly into his own pocket, a doctor licence to operate without looking at professional qualifications or experience. The professional bodies in the business, the Royal Institution of Chartered Surveyors and the Incorporated Society of Valuers, are not happy on this point. They are proud of the training

apply rigorously. There is growing pressure for agents to supply a list of their outside interests so that a client can check that he is not being sold short. Something along these lines could, presumably, be incorporated into a Parliamentary Bill.

Perhaps the greatest area of contention in the commercial sector is valuations. It has been suggested that there should be an annual valuation of properties held by companies. This, the opposition argues, would be extremely expensive—even forgetting the cases where it may reveal something nasty.

Valuations are difficult enough to arrive at these days. With inflation going one way and the value of commercial property going in the other the property companies are not sure where they stand. And the same applies to valuers. There is no longer any feel for the market. The increasing incidence of commercial landlords and tenants having to go to arbitration demonstrates the growing confusion in this field.

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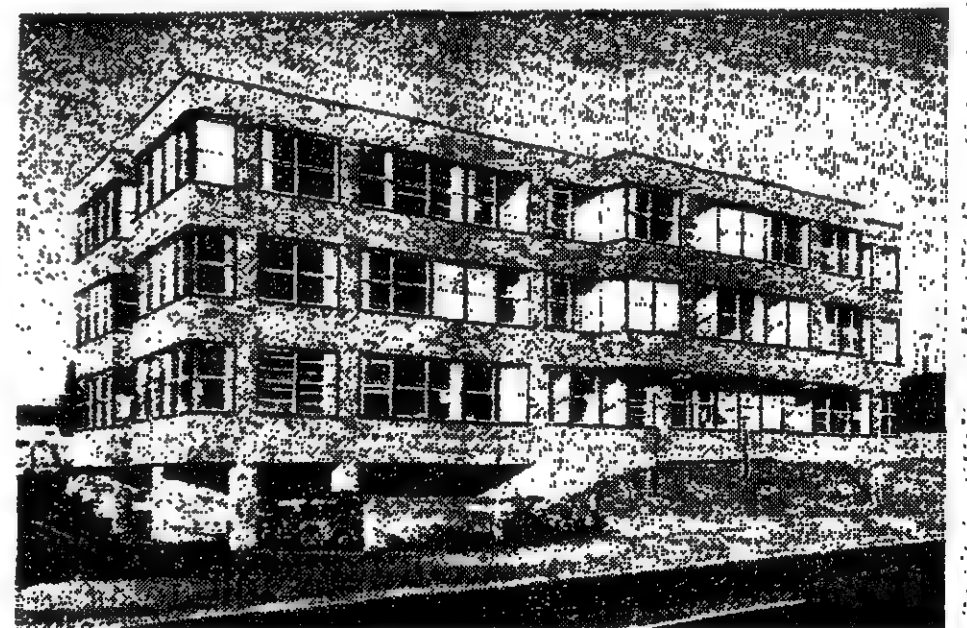
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PROPERTY XII

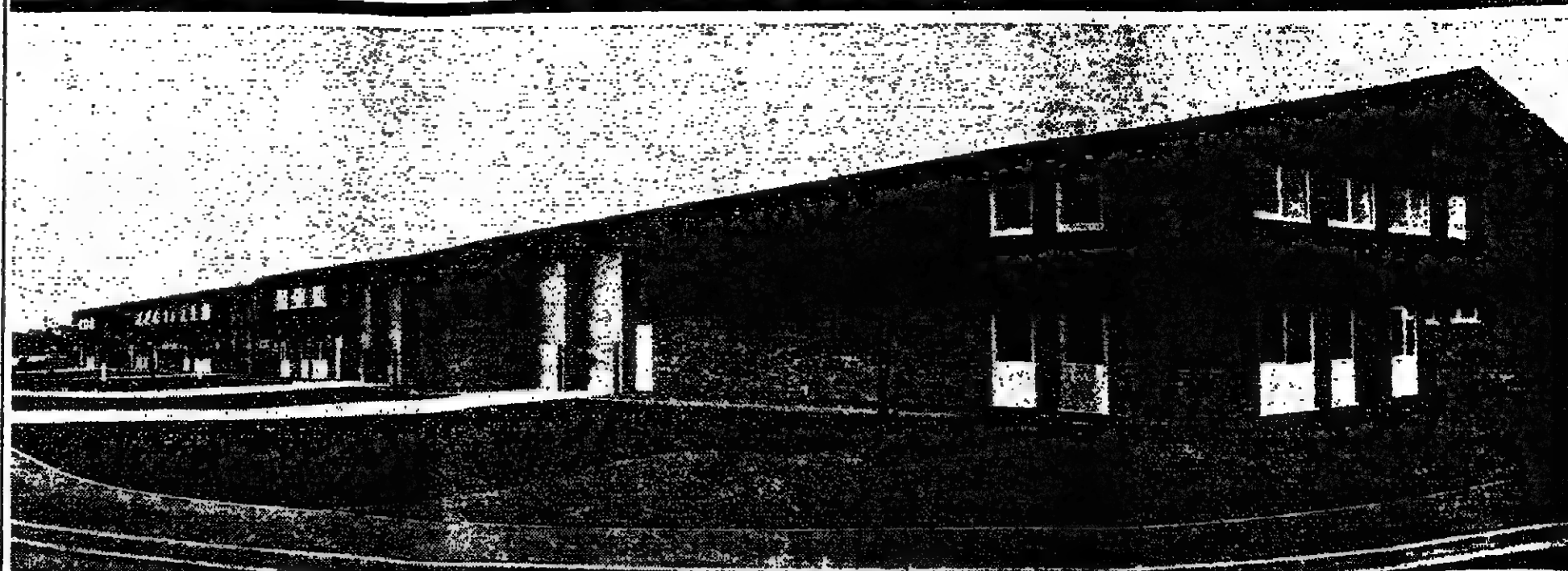
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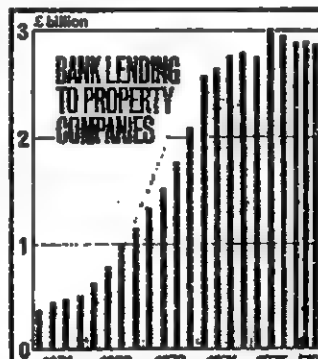
The Ashville Group has a 21-acre trading development at Abingdon. Future occupants include Trade Hydraulics and Bass Charrington. The first phase of the development has been completed and half of the accommodation has been leased by a Blackwood Hodge and Oxford Electronics subsidiary. Rentals are in the region of £1.40 per square foot.

Loans from banks still high

BANK LENDING to the property sector may have come off the top, after nudging £3bn. in the first quarter of 1975, but it is taking a very long time to show any significant drop. The last quarterly figures from the Bank of England showed the total to be just £19m. lower in May than in February. The clearing banks fall in advances had compensated for a rise from the "other banks" section of the chart.

The total compares with £2.97bn. a year ago, so a drop of 3 per cent. In the last quarter (there had been a rise the one before) is no indication that the banks are getting out of their problems. It was not until the last quarter of 1973 that the level went through £2bn. and the last quarter of 1972 that the £1bn. mark was passed. The last small drop did, however, indicate that lending totals were on a plateau, with roughly the same level seen for that last two years. The explanation of the high level is mainly that disposals have been matched by the continuing cost of development programmes or rolled-up interest. The ending of the development programmes for the major groups should indicate a more definite fall in lending totals by the end of this year, despite the rise in interest rates.

That the level has remained as high, despite massive disposals by the large public companies and by some of the receivers and liquidators, is a measure of the commitment of bankers to the spirit of 1972-73. The quoted companies alone have sold around £850m. worth of properties in the last two years and while much of this was institutionally funded, all the sounder groups have been paying off their short-term bank debt as fast as they can.



Comfort

Add to the disposals figure the admittedly low call the property sector could make on the stock market (approaching £100m. in rights issues of equity and convertible stock) and the last year can be seen as one in which there was little immediate comfort for the banks, despite the better investment exercising the patience of lifeboat captains and in part they were simply unable to recover their loans.

The pressure from them to reduce their lending to the sector will continue until property values are much further restored and until they can see the erosion of equity bases among their borrowers restored. Next time developers start looking hopefully for bank finance there will be many fewer doors to knock on.

It is not simply the absence of many of the fringe lenders,

and much restricted use of deposits by the others, which will change matters. The clearers, too, have had a stern lesson, even if their stated level of provisions does not seem to indicate its full size.

There are already definable changes in technique, as well as in general attitudes to property lending, which have resulted from the recent debacle.

One of the clearest lessons has concerned consolidation of security. This has applied upwards from the householder with more than one site to the largest groups. The ability to carry a surplus from one site to a deficit on another will be insisted on.

Powers of receivership will also be re-examined. These, under most mortgages, have simply followed the Law of

One such case involved one of the largest companies being faced with a valuation which the bank insisted should ignore marriage value and be based on a sale in less than three months. The independent valuer concluded that a previous valuation of £1.1m. should be reduced to £850,000. The bank's letter demanding further security coincided, within days, of the marriage value being realised and the obvious institutional purchaser settling for £2m.

That is one side of the argument. But faced with wildly fluctuating estimates of property values, banks have been left in an unenviable position. At a time when professional surveyors can reduce their estimates of value of completed and let City of London properties by as much as 60 per cent., what view can a banker take about virgin sites? This is a main problem of the secondary lenders, notably First National Finance.

Decisions

As well as their overseeing role with some of the fringe banks, the clearers are, in their own right, facing some of the hardest decisions. There are many companies to whom the fringe banks lent the site acquisition funds and hence have the prior charges over clearers providing building finance (and anyway, if it comes to a decision on receivership, the clearers are likely to form the better judgment through their knowledge of the client's current account).

In such situations, the priority of charges works against the clearer who takes the decision to build-out an unfinished development. Whether or not, when the present peak of property lending has declined, the major banks decide to press for changes in the law relating to company failure, they will have established a new set of ground rules. On the whole, the banking system has managed to maintain order in a difficult time. There have certainly been controversial decisions to place companies in receivership, and there have been some controversially swift sales by receivers with first charges (though the polite convention of getting at least two independent valuers to back a sale price has been adhered to in the interests of those lenders coming behind the queue).

There have also been cases where banks have lost patience with a committee of creditors system and have gone ahead to recover their money to the knowing detriment of other creditors. But the degree to which banks have stood behind the major property groups and hence played a role at least as important as the institutions' purchases in restoring stability, is best evidenced by the fact that Amalgamated Investment and Property was the first, and so far the only one of the larger quoted companies to fail. Even there, despite the sharper than anticipated fall in values, it was the directors who decided to liquidate.

Reviews

But as patience has worn thin, some banks have become notably more demanding in their security reviews. Some U.S. banks fall into this category, particularly when the personnel at present based in Britain are not those who did the lending and they have arrived fresh from the U.S. property problems with a much tougher attitude than is common in Britain. Where loan agreements provide for regular valuations at the borrower's expense, the approach of some banks has considerably angered property groups.

Town and City Properties has just shown, by having to ask for an increase in borrowing powers, how long it takes for a group with a large development programme to reduce borrowings despite heavy sales. Town and Commercial's attempt to agree a moratorium, and the eroded asset base of Capital and Counties, are other reminders of the continuing problems even among groups with good portfolios. The banking system, despite the expectation that the total lending level should soon decline (particularly from the London clearing banks' present

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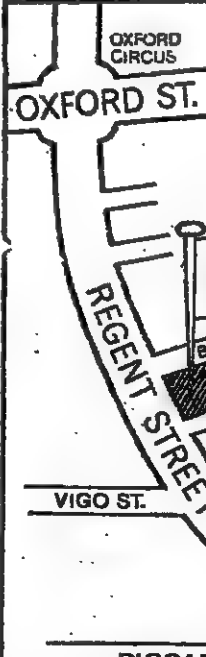
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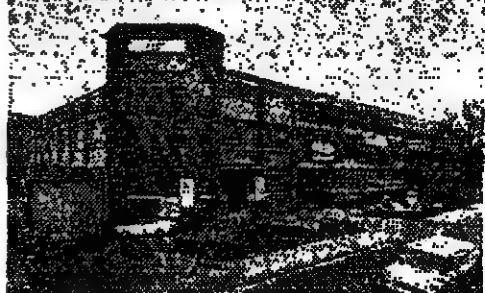
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Management of State schools is criticised in the Auld Report on the William Tyndale school. Michael Dixon studies its implications.

Political lessons of the Tyndale affair

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The acting head was Mrs. Irene Chowles, an experienced teacher in primary education with a fairly conventional approach to her work. She came face to face with Mr. Brian Haddow, then aged 28, whose belief in allowing children a "very wide choice as to how they would spend their day" was matched by a "keen concern about what he regards as the evils of present day society," and evidently also by a powerfully persuasive personality. Certainly he seems to have gained thereafter a dominant influence over the bulk of the junior school's teaching staff including Mr. Terry Ellis, the new headmaster, who was appointed in January 1974 at the age of 35.

Remedy

The running of the school became more and more warmly political—in both the internal and theoretical senses of the term. Mr. Haddow's influence was sharply expressed by Mrs. "Dolly" Walker, who had been appointed part-time to remedy reading problems affecting about one in every three of the junior school's seven to 11-year-old pupils. Mrs. Walker's professional approach and personality conflicted with those of Mr. Haddow, and she began ferociously canvassing support for her views among managers, parents and other people in the Islington area.



Headmaster Terry Ellis, pictured at his Finsbury Park home.

As a result, the dispute erupted into public view at an acrimonious meeting of the teachers, and several of the parents and managers, in the presence of the Inner London Education Authority's schools inspector for the district. That meeting, from which Mr. Haddow and his supporters walked

in protest against interference with their professional concerns, took place more than two years ago. Throughout the period there was increasing complaint that pupils were tending to become unmanageably disobedient in their homes, and that even 10 and 11-year-olds were failing to acquire basic literacy and numeracy. From 230 pupils in the autumn of 1973, the junior school's roll fell to only 114 in September 1975, when the ILEA finally conducted a full inspection.

This was resisted by the staff. Mrs. Walker had left the school, and Mrs. Chowles stayed at her post. But the other seven full-timers, claiming themselves victims of a politically inspired

conspiracy led by Rightish-Labour Islington councillors, went on unofficial strike, defying return-to-work instructions from both the ILEA and the National Union of Teachers. When the authority went on with its plans for the inspection and an independent public inquiry into the affair, the seven strikers abandoned the "alternative" schools they had set up in the meantime, and returned to William Tyndale junior. The public inquiry started in October, and the whole staff was suspended on full pay, and replaced by temporary teachers, pending the outcome. What this will be remains officially undecided even now—nearly three years after the start of the

trouble—and whatever the ILEA decides to do to the school cannot be put into practice until September at the earliest. But since Mr. Auld's 250,000-word report on the evidence of the £55,000 inquiry blames everyone who could be seen as contributing to the dispute, the outcome could well include the resignation of Mr. Harvey Hinds as chairman of the ILEA schools subcommittee, rebukes to authority officials, the formal dismissal of managers and the seven teachers who went on strike, and the amalgamation of the junior school with the infant school on the same site.

educational interests groups Education and Science has legal power to intervene in such disputes, but chose not to exercise it. The local education authority apparently had what could be interpreted as a legal duty to exercise control over the type of teaching provided in the school, but had decided to delegate this to the head-teacher and staff in conjunction with the managers. In these circumstances, Mr. Auld says, "quality control" largely devolves on the teachers themselves, with the next higher rank of the educational workforce—the district inspectors—having not the power to act as managers, so much as the privilege of serving as advisers.

Protracted

But, Mr. Auld suggests, if an authority school such as Tyndale junior "is not providing 'efficient education' or education 'suitable to the requirements of its pupils, or is failing to have appropriate regard for the wishes of its pupils' parents, then, regardless of the person or persons in whom the exercise of the control of the conduct and curriculum of the school is vested for the time being, the authority must intervene to ensure that it fulfils its fundamental obligations. If advice and persuasion by the authority's inspectorate fail to produce the desired effect, the authority must take some effective action in relation to the school to remedy the situation."

In the QC's judgment, therefore, central Government and local education authorities legally have both power and duty to control what is taught by schools and how they teach law.

Letters to the Editor

1 of

corporation tax, etc. Further, accountants insist on seeing VAT returns of their clients, and it is quite easy to pick up VAT evasion by the accountants concerned.

I would also like to draw attention to the fact that the Civil Service increased by 5.3 per cent per annum between June, 1974, and January, 1976, when production was 80 per cent of the normal level. What is required is a more cost-effective Civil Service.

Taxed where we spend

From Mr. F. Sherborne. Sir, I am afraid that your correspondent Mr. F. Stark (July 12) is a bit wide of the mark on the question of transferring taxation from earnings to spending. When a Government such as ours takes around 80 per cent of the gross domestic product in taxation, all the old theories about where this makes an impact are really no longer valid.

As money circulates within our society the Government takes a large slice called taxation, which goes very rightly to smooth out some of the gross inequalities in the distribution of wealth and to provide essential social services, and very wrongly to fritter away some of our resources in providing loss-making but essential facilities which nevertheless are doubtless vote catching.

The old division between direct and indirect taxation has, of course disappeared for all practical purposes. For instance, the labour cost in any article I might buy is higher than it might otherwise have been because the gross remuneration paid for the work involved at every stage of production is increased as it must cover the income-tax paid by the workers involved as well as their take-home pay. As these charges go right through our indivisible society I am even paying something to cover my own income-tax.

I feel it could thus well be argued that all tax is at present levied at the point where we spend our money which, if we wish to stay alive, is quite unavoidable. Even any kind of wealth tax or capital transfer tax is no more than a tax on income. Such a tax can only be paid out of income or by disposing of an asset, that is a form of dis-saving which someone else can only acquire out of savings or income surplus to requirements which have arisen by yet somebody else paying for goods or services which have sufficient margin in the price to allow this saving to be made in the first place.

and effective way of helping poor countries, I will do likewise. There are probably many readers who would agree that there is something in his suggestion (in his final paragraph) that we have lost some confidence in ourselves and particularly at leadership level—but when in his final sentence he finishes off what is otherwise a both well inspired and inspiring appeal to our more humane instincts (albeit with an element of national self-interest in mind) with the suggestion that "We should refuse to go on treating appeasement of international bankers as top priority—starting with the economic aid issue" he is surely inviting us to be less than honest as well as naïve.

Although many see the disciplines which our creditors are likely to impose on us as being almost the last hope of our regaining some economic strength and standing in the world, Mr. Tether mis-hits a very important nail when he suggests that our creditors (to whom our attitudes to them) are to blame for our having to almost halve our aid to poor countries.

How much aid we give to poor countries should be and will be very largely our own business and the many other factors in the equation—no doubt taking account of contributions from other countries, but it will only remain so as long as we are such aid against our own standards of living. To trade it against "the appeasement of international bankers" and to use this as our excuse for weighing in our past promises is hypocritical to say the least and would hardly enhance our standing in the world or help us to "regain our self-respect."

T. E. Simms, 48, Hexton Grove, Bradford 9, West Yorkshire.

Insured pension benefit

From Mr. M. McShee. Sir—I am sure that many of your readers will be grateful to your correspondent Philip Giles (July 14) for his impartial assessment of the rival merits of privately invested and insured pension schemes. Mr. Giles, however, gives a less than complete account of the benefits which will flow from the adoption of an insured basis. In particular he has neglected to mention the enhancement of employment prospects for those who follow upon a widespread switch by scheme trustees from private investment to the insured basis.

M. McShee, 31 Rowan Grove, Dunsford, Exeter.

Company cars

From Mr. J. Byrnes. Sir—The Government's second thoughts were widely heralded as a concession and despite your report on July 10, it is still not generally understood that this "concession" means that many (most?) people with company cars in the 1000cc to 3000cc bracket will be paying more tax in 1977/78 than originally proposed. Although less tax may be payable in subsequent years it can take considerable time to recoup the 1977/78 position. For example, a driver of a car in the 1800cc-1899cc range will

Misconceived shorthand

From Mr. S. Reynolds. Sir,—It was interesting to see Opus Dei described in your columns (July 15) as a "Catholic organisation that is used as a form of political shorthand to describe a sector of the banking and administrative world" in Spain.

It is unfortunate that some journalists have taken the name of Opus Dei as a label in this way, because it is totally misleading. The error lies in identifying the international association Opus Dei, whose aims are exclusively spiritual, with the temporal activities of its members (in this case with the activities of a very small minority of its members who happen to have held prominent positions in one country). The purpose of Opus Dei is to encourage people of all conditions to live fully Christian lives, each in his own state in life and through his ordinary work. As it happens the majority of members of Opus Dei—there are some 60,000 of them from 80 different countries—are of modest means and social position: manual workers, clerks, teachers, farm labourers, housewives. Whatever their position they all enjoy complete freedom and receive no directives from Opus Dei on how to do their work or what political views to hold or support, etc. It is only to be expected that their views should differ greatly in these matters, as indeed they do.

As one who has enjoyed this freedom in Opus Dei for many years, I naturally object to being identified with any movement, trend or group to which I owe no allegiance or support. Surely it is also in the interest of good journalism to avoid using labels that are misconceived, however "convenient" they may seem at the time.

Stephen Reynolds, Neithall House, Nutley Terrace, Hampstead, N.W.3.

MPs' pay rise

From Mr. A. Holland. Sir—The cynicism with which Mr. Foot glibly announces a £8 rise for MPs as conforming with the pay code is almost beyond belief. He knows full well that on April 29 MPs voted themselves, with only 24 dissentients, pensions based on a notional salary of £5,000 per year which was a clear breach of the pay code and a course of action denied to the rest of the community. It is no good his defending the situation on the grounds of non-implementation of the Boyle report or any other report. All pay codes breed injustice and narrow differentials unfairly. Only MPs and higher paid civil servants with their indexed pensions have opted out from sharing the national burden.

I seem to remember a story about "Cleansing the Augean Stables" which is becoming ever more appropriate. Anthony D. R. Holland, Windlesham Manor, Windlesham, Surrey.

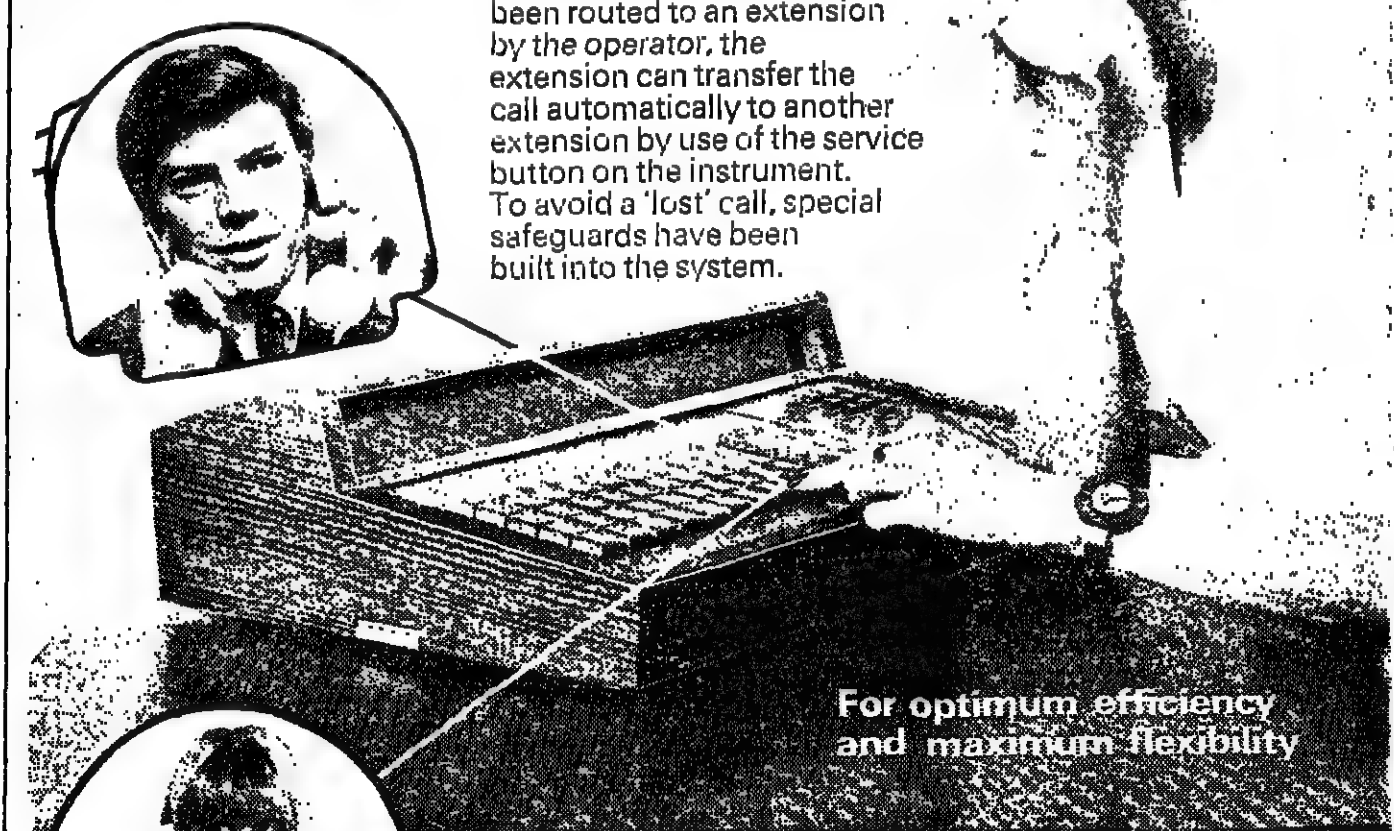
To-day's Events

GENERAL
Mr. Denis Healey, Chancellor of the Exchequer, expected to meet Labour Party's Home Policy Committee on proposed cuts in public expenditure.
PARLIAMENTARY BUSINESS
House of Commons: Finance Bill, remaining stages. Consideration of EEC document on 1977 draft budget.
House of Lords: Debate on White Paper, "Developments in European Communities November 1975 to April 1976" and on report of EEC Committee on Tindemans 1975 to 1976.
COMPANY MEETINGS
See Week's Financial Diary on page 10.
BALLET
Queen Mother attends opening performance by Martha Graham Dance Company at Royal Opera House, Covent Garden, W.C.2, 7.30 p.m.
Australian Ballet dance The Merry Widow, Palladium Theatre, Argyll Street, W.1, 7.30 p.m.

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Form 21

Associated Newspapers well placed

As known pre-tax profits for the year to February 29, 1976 was £330,713 (loss £870,980). The dividend is 1.25p (nil), and a one-for-four rights issue at par (23p) is proposed.

Although conditions are still not buoyant, most sections of Chamberlain Phipps are operating satisfactorily, and the chairman, Mr. W. R. F. Chamberlain, believes that profits and earnings per

JEVONS COOPER
Jevons Cooper has completed the purchase of Squires Steel Stockholders from Cooper Finance. Cooper Finance now holds 217,000 Jevons Cooper shares (11.67 per cent.).



London & Midland Industrial

As known pre-tax profits for the year to February 29, 1976 was £330,713 (loss £870,980). The dividend is 1.25p (nil), and a one-for-four rights issue at par (23p) is proposed.

Now that the situation regarding the Brent Cross development has been resolved, the directors of Brent Walker intend to consider the preliminary results for 1973 at a Board meeting on August 9.

They felt it would not be mean-

JEVONS COOPER
Jevons Cooper has completed the purchase of Squires Steel Stockholders from Cooper Finance. Cooper Finance now holds 217,000 Jevons Cooper shares (11.67 per cent.).

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London & Midland Industrial

INTERNATIONAL COMPANY NEWS EURO MARKETS

EUROBONDS

Dollar sector generally firmer

BY MARY CAMPBELL

ALTHOUGH Thursday's news of the latest U.S. money supply figures and the fall in U.S. bond prices unsettled the market on Friday, the dollar sector was in general firmer last week. The fall in the value of the Canadian dollar against the U.S. dollar appeared to have little impact on Canadian dollar bonds.

The market is also being helped by the relatively small volume of new issues, which is being attributed to the beginning of the holiday season.

The major issue to be announced last week was \$500m. for the Republic of Austria. The indicated coupon is 8 per cent, on a 10-year issue. The issue was being quoted around 101 on Friday.

The National Coal Board's issue did not do so well however, being quoted a full point below its 9 1/2 per cent offering price.

Other sectors of the market were relatively quiet. In Germany the World Bank is raising DM150m. for six years in a private placement via Deutsche Bank. The coupon is 8 per cent, and issue price par. Due for announcement today is an issue for the Spanish Autopistas de Mare Nostrum.

Prices of Swiss franc foreign bonds rose sharply with the expectation that a further coupon cut may be on the way.

The only other new issue announced last week which is still on offer is a \$500m. for Royal Trust Co. Mortgage Corp. Indicated coupon is 9 1/2 per cent, and maturity six years. The European Coal and Steel Community raised \$23m. for ten years, on an 8 1/2 per cent coupon at impact on Canadian dollar bonds.

Akzona earnings on the upgrade

BY MICHAEL VAN OS

AMSTERDAM, July 18.

THE RESULTS of the U.S. chemicals company Akzona for the second quarter of this year, despite stagnating sales of certain chemical fibres, shows a considerable improvement in the second quarter of this year, despite stagnating sales of certain chemical fibres, says a statement released by Akzo, the Dutch group, which has a 66 per cent interest in the U.S. company.

The second quarter net profit recorded by Akzona amounted to \$3.4m. or \$0.27 per share, which is up 63 per cent, on the \$2.08m. (\$0.17 per share) of the same quarter of 1975. Sales went up by 10 per cent, to \$180.1m. in the second quarter.

Changes at NSU

BY OUR OWN CORRESPONDENT

AMSTERDAM, July 18.

HOLLAND'S largest shipping company, Netherlands Shipping Union (NSU), has set up a new company based in Rotterdam, called Damco International, which will take in most of its international transport and forwarding activities. Some 20 companies, located in Europe, the U.S., Australia, Middle East and the Far East, with around a total of 2,300 staff, will become part of the new company.

A statement from NSU, which announced earlier that it was moving its Dutch head office from Rijswijk to Rotterdam, said that the re-organization would not affect agreements with agencies. Damco International will comprise three separate divisions, named Damco International Expedited and Damco Air Freight Transport and Damco Air Freight. Mr. B. H. Claassen, currently deputy managing director of its Ruys transport group, will become the managing director of Damco International.

AUSTRALIAN WEEKLY LIST

Company	July 16	July 15	July 14
Advertiser Newspapers	11.68	1.28	
Advert. Transport	11.16	1.16	
Advert. Transport	11.16	1.16	
Advert. Transport	11.16	1.16	
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Advert. Transport	11.16	1.16	
Advert. Transport	11.16	1.16	

TEL AVIV STOCK EXCHANGE

Company	Price	Change
Bank Leumi	162	+0.5
Bank Leumi	162	+0.5
Bank Leumi	162	+0.5
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Bank Leumi	162	+0.5
Bank Leumi	162	+0.5

HONG KONG

Company	July 16	July 15	July 14
Advertiser Newspapers	11.68	1.28	
Advert. Transport	11.16	1.16	
Advert. Transport	11.16	1.16	
Advert. Transport	11.16	1.16	
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Advert. Transport	11.16	1.16	

SINGAPORE STOCKS

Company	July 16	July 15	July 14
Advertiser Newspapers	11.68	1.28	
Advert. Transport	11.16	1.16	
Advert. Transport	11.16	1.16	
Advert. Transport	11.16	1.16	
Advert. Transport	11.16	1.16	
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Advert. Transport	11.16	1.16	

NEW YORK - DOW JONES

July 16	July 15	July 14	July 13	July 12	July 11	July 10	July 9	July 8	July 7	July 6	July 5	July 4	July 3	July 2	July 1
Industrials	1051.2	1047.4	1040.1	1038.0	1036.0	1034.1	1032.1	1030.1	1028.1	1026.1	1024.1	1022.1	1020.1	1018.1	1016.1
Transport	225.7	225.0	224.7	224.0	223.0	222.0	221.0	220.0	219.0	218.0	217.0	216.0	215.0	214.0	213.0
Utilities	100.0	99.7	99.4	99.1	98.8	98.5	98.2	97.9	97.6	97.3	97.0	96.7	96.4	96.1	95.8
Commodities	100.0	99.7	99.4	99.1	98.8	98.5	98.2	97.9	97.6	97.3	97.0	96.7	96.4	96.1	95.8

* Basis of index changed from July 1.

Ind. Div. Yield % 3.79 -3.80 -3.81 -3.82 -3.83 -3.84 -3.85 -3.86 -3.87 -3.88 -3.89 -3.90 -3.91 -3.92 -3.93 -3.94

STANDARD AND POORS

July 16	July 15	July 14	July 13	July 12	July 11	July 10	July 9	July 8	July 7	July 6	July 5	July 4	July 3	July 2	July 1
Ind. Div. Yield %	3.79	-3.80	-3.81	-3.82	-3.83	-3.84	-3.85	-3.86	-3.87	-3.88	-3.89	-3.90	-3.91	-3.92	-3.93
Long Term Bond Yield	8.80	8.77	8.74	8.71	8.68	8.65	8.62	8.59	8.56	8.53	8.50	8.47	8.44	8.41	8.38

OVERSEAS SHARE INFORMATION

NEW YORK

High	Low	Stock	July 16	July 15	July 14	July 13	July 12	July 11	July 10	July 9	July 8	July 7	July 6	July 5	July 4	July 3	July 2	July 1
10 1/2	10 1/4	Alcoa	47 1/2	47 1/2	47 1/2	47 1/2	47 1/2	47 1/2	47 1/2	47 1/2	47 1/2	47 1/2	47 1/2	47 1/2	47 1/2	47 1/2	47 1/2	47 1/2
10 1/2	10 1/4	Alcoa	47 1/2	47 1/2	47 1/2	47 1/2	47 1/2	47 1/2	47 1/2	47 1/2	47 1/2	47 1/2	47 1/2	47 1/2	47 1/2	47 1/2	47 1/2	47 1/2
10 1/2	10 1/4	Alcoa	47 1/2	47 1/2	47 1/2	47 1/2	47 1/2	47 1/2	47 1/2	47 1/2	47 1/2	47 1/2	47 1/2	47 1/2	47 1/2	47 1/2	47 1/2	47 1/2
10 1/2	10 1/4	Alcoa	47 1/2	47 1/2	47 1/2	47 1/2	47 1/2	47 1/2	47 1/2	47 1/2	47 1/2	47 1/2	47 1/2	47 1/2	47 1/2	47 1/2	47 1/2	47 1/2

LONDON

High	Low	Stock	July 16	July 15	July 14	July 13	July 12	July 11	July 10	July 9	July 8	July 7	July 6	July 5	July 4	July 3	July 2	July 1
10 1/2	10 1/4	Alcoa	47 1/2	47 1/2	47 1/2	47 1/2	47 1/2	47 1/2	47 1/2	47 1/2	47 1/2	47 1/2	47 1/2	47 1/2	47 1/2	47 1/2	47 1/2	47 1/2
10 1/2	10 1/4	Alcoa	47 1/2	47 1/2	47 1/2	47 1/2	47 1/2	47 1/2	47 1/2	47 1/2	47 1/2	47 1/2	47 1/2	47 1/2	47 1/2	47 1/2	47 1/2	47 1/2
10 1/2	10 1/4	Alcoa	47 1/2	47 1/2	47 1/2	47 1/2	47 1/2	47 1/2	47 1/2	47 1/2	47 1/2	47 1/2	47 1/2	47 1/2	47 1/2	47 1/2	47 1/2	47 1/2
10 1/2	10 1/4	Alcoa	47 1/2	47 1/2	47 1/2	47 1/2	47 1/2	47 1/2	47 1/2	47 1/2	47 1/2	47 1/2	47 1/2	47 1/2	47 1/2	47 1/2	47 1/2	47 1/2

PARIS

High	Low	Stock	July 16	July 15	July 14	July 13	July 12	July 11	July 10	July 9	July 8	July 7	July 6	July 5	July 4	July 3	July 2	July 1
10 1/2	10 1/4	Alcoa	47 1/2	47 1/2	47 1/2	47 1/2	47 1/2	47 1/2	47 1/2	47 1/2	47 1/2	47 1/2	47 1/2	47 1/2	47 1/2	47 1/2	47 1/2	47 1/2
10 1/2	10 1/4	Alcoa	47 1/2	47 1/2	47 1/2	47 1/2	47 1/2	47 1/2	47 1/2	47 1/2	47 1/2	47 1/2	47 1/2	47 1/2	47 1/2	47 1/2	47 1/2	47 1/2
10 1/2	10 1/4	Alcoa	47 1/2	47 1/2	47 1/2	47 1/2	47 1/2	47 1/2	47 1/2	47 1/2	47 1/2	47 1/2	47 1/2	47 1/2	47 1/2	47 1/2	47 1/2	47 1/2
10 1/2	10 1/4	Alcoa	47 1/2	47 1/2	47 1/2	47 1/2	47 1/2	47 1/2	47 1/2	47 1/2	47 1/2	47 1/2	47 1/2	47 1/2	47 1/2	47 1/2	47 1/2	47 1/2

BRUSSELS

High	Low	Stock	July 16	July 15	July 14	July 13	July 12	July 11	July 10	July 9	July 8	July 7	July 6	July 5	July 4	July 3	July 2	July 1
10 1/2	10 1/4	Alcoa	47 1/2	47 1/2	47 1/2	47 1/2	47 1/2	47 1/2	47 1/2	47 1/2	47 1/2	47 1/2	47 1/2	47 1/2	47 1/2	47 1/2	47 1/2	47 1/2
10 1/2	10 1/4	Alcoa	47 1/2	47 1/2	47 1/2	47 1/2	47 1/2	47 1/2	47 1/2	47 1/2	47 1/2	47 1/2	47 1/2	47 1/2	47 1/2	47 1/2	47 1/2	47 1/2
10 1/2	10 1/4	Alcoa	47 1/2	47 1/2	47 1/2	47 1/2	47 1/2	47 1/2	47 1/2	47 1/2	47 1/2	47 1/2	47 1/2	47 1/2	47 1/2	47 1/2	47 1/2	47 1/2
10 1/2	10 1/4	Alcoa	47 1/2	47 1/2	47 1/2	47 1/2	47 1/2	47 1/2	47 1/2	47 1/2	47 1/2	47 1/2	47 1/2	47 1/2	47 1/2	47 1/2	47 1/2	47 1/2

MILAN

High	Low	Stock	July 16	July 15	July 14	July 13	July 12	July 11	July 10	July 9	July 8	July 7	July 6	July 5	July 4	July 3	July 2	July 1
10 1/2	10 1/4	Alcoa	47 1/2	47 1/2	47 1/2	47 1/2	47 1/2	47 1/2	47 1/2	47 1/2	47 1/2	47 1/2	47 1/2	47 1/2	47 1/2	47 1/2	47 1/2	47 1/2
10 1/2	10 1/4	Alcoa	47 1/2	47 1/2	47 1/2	47 1/2	47 1/2	47 1/2	47 1/2	47 1/2	47 1/2	47 1/2	47 1/2	47 1/2	47 1/2	47 1/2	47 1/2	47 1/2
10 1/2	10 1/4	Alcoa	47 1/2	47 1/2	47 1/2	47 1/2	47 1/2	47 1/2	47 1/2	47 1/2	47 1/2	47 1/2	47 1/2	47 1/2	47 1/2	47 1/2	47 1/2	47 1/2
10 1/2	10 1/4	Alcoa	47 1/2	47 1/2	47 1/2	47 1/2	47 1/2	47 1/2	47 1/2	47 1/2	47 1/2	47 1/2	47 1/2	47 1/2	47 1/2	47 1/2	47 1/2	47 1/2

STOCKHOLM

High	Low	Stock	July 16	July 15	July 14	July 13	July 12	July 11	July 10	July 9	July 8	July 7	July 6	July 5	July 4	July 3	July 2	July 1
10 1/2	10 1/4	Alcoa	47 1/2	47 1/2	47 1/2	47 1/2	47 1/2	47 1/2	47 1/2	47 1/2	47 1/2	47 1/2	47 1/2	47 1/2	47 1/2	47 1/2	47 1/2	47 1/2
10 1/2	10 1/4	Alcoa	47 1/2	47 1/2	47 1/2	47 1/2	47 1/2	47 1/2	47 1/2	47 1/2	47 1/2	47 1/2	47 1/2	47 1/2	47 1/2	47 1/2	47 1/2	47 1/2
10 1/2	10 1/4	Alcoa	47 1/2	47 1/2	47 1/2	47 1/2	47 1/2	47 1/2	47 1/2	47 1/2	47 1/2	47 1/2	47 1/2	47 1/2	47 1/2	47 1/2	47 1/2	47 1/2
10 1/2	10 1/4	Alcoa	47 1/2	47 1/2	47 1/2	47 1/2	47 1/2	47 1/2	47 1/2	47 1/2	47 1/2	47 1/2	47 1/2	47 1/2	47 1/2	47 1/2	47 1/2	47 1/2

COPENHAGEN

High	Low	Stock	July 16	July 15	July 14	July 13	July 12	July 11	July 10	July 9	July 8	July 7	July 6	July 5	July 4	July 3	July 2	July 1
10 1/2	10 1/4	Alcoa	47 1/2	47 1/2	47 1/2	47 1/2	47 1/2	47 1/2	47 1/2	47 1/2	47 1/2	47 1/2	47 1/2	47 1/2	47 1/2	47 1/2	47 1/2	47 1/2
10 1/2	10 1/4	Alcoa	47 1/2	47 1/2	47 1/2	47 1/2	47 1/2	47 1/2	47 1/2	47 1/2	47 1/2	47 1/2	47 1/2	47 1/2	47 1/2	47 1/2	47 1/2	47 1/2
10 1/2	10 1/4	Alcoa	47 1/2	47 1/2	47 1/2	47 1/2	47 1/2	47 1/2	47 1/2	47 1/2	47 1/2	47 1/2	47 1/2	47 1/2	47 1/2	47 1/2	47 1/2	47 1/2
10 1/2	10 1/4	Alcoa	47 1/2	47 1/2	47 1/2	47 1/2	47 1/2	47 1/2	47 1/2	47 1/2	47 1/2	47 1/2	47 1/2	47 1/2	47 1/2	47 1/2	47 1/2	47 1/2

OSLO

High	Low	Stock	July 16	July 15	July 14	July 13
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A copy of this Offer for Sale, having attached thereto the documents specified below, has been delivered to the Registrar of Companies for registration. This Offer for Sale contains particulars given in compliance with the Regulations of the Council of The Stock Exchange for the purpose of giving information to the public with regard to the Company. The Directors collectively and individually accept full responsibility for the accuracy of the information given and confirm, having made all reasonable enquiries, that to the best of their knowledge and belief there are no other facts the omission of which would make any statement herein misleading. Application has been made to the Council of The Stock Exchange for the Ordinary Shares of the Company, issued or now being issued as mentioned below, to be admitted to the Official List.

The Application List for the Ordinary Shares now offered for sale will open at 10 a.m. on Thursday, 22nd July, 1978 and will close at such later time on the same day as Hambros Bank Limited may determine.

Hambro Life Assurance Limited

(Incorporated in England and Wales under the Companies Act, 1948—No. 365292)

Offer for Sale by Hambros Bank Limited of 4,243,000 Ordinary Shares of 25p each at 235p per Share payable in full on application

The Ordinary Shares now offered for sale rank in full for all dividends hereafter declared or paid on the Ordinary share capital of the Company.

*SHARE CAPITAL

Authorised:
£8,000,000 in 24,000,000 Ordinary Shares of 25p each

Issued or now being issued and fully paid:
£5,000,000

*Assuming the capital reorganisation described in paragraph 1 of "Statutory and General Information" below becomes unconditional by reason of the Council of The Stock Exchange on or before 28th July, 1978 admitting to the Official List the Ordinary Shares of the Company, issued or now being issued.

INDEBTEDNESS

At the close of business on 30th June, 1978 the Company and its subsidiaries ("the Group") had outstanding unsecured bank loans, referred to under "Subsidiaries" below, repayable between December, 1978 and January, 1979, amounting to £11,258,208, all of which were foreign currency amounts and have been converted at the rates ruling at 30th June, 1978. Save as aforesaid and apart from inter-company liabilities within the Group, no company in the Group had outstanding at that date mortgages, charges, debentures or other loan capital or other borrowings or indebtedness in the nature of borrowing, including bank overdrafts, liabilities under acceptances or acceptance credits, hire-purchase commitments or any guarantees (other than guarantees given in the ordinary course of business) or other material contingent liabilities.

DIRECTORS
JOCELYN OLAF HAMBRO, M.C.,
41 Bishopsgate, London EC2P 2AA (Chairman)
(Chairman of Hambros Limited).
GEORGE SHORROCK ASHCOMBE WHEATCROFT, M.A.,
7 Old Park Lane, London W1Y 3LJ (Vice-Chairman)
(Emeritus Professor of Law in the University of London).
MARK AUBREY WEINBERG, B.Com., LL.M.,
7 Old Park Lane, London W1Y 3LJ (Managing Director)
(a Director of Hambros Limited).
JOHN MARTIN CLAY,
41 Bishopsgate, London EC2P 2AA
(a Director of Hambros Limited and Deputy Chairman
of Hambros Bank Limited).
WILLIAM DANIEL DANE, F.Inst.M.,
7 Old Park Lane, London W1Y 3LJ
(Marketing Director).
GEORGE HOPPER FLETCHER, C.B.E., F.C.A.,
41 Bishopsgate, London EC2P 2AA
(a Director of Hambros Bank Limited).
ALAN FORD, F.I.A., F.S.A.,
7 Old Park Lane, London W1Y 3LJ
(Actuary and Financial Director).
PETER DENIS HILL-WOOD,
41 Bishopsgate, London EC2P 2AA
(a Director of Hambros Bank Limited).
JOEL GOODMAN JOFFE, B.Com., LL.B.,
7 Old Park Lane, London W1Y 3LJ
(Administrative Director and Secretary).
MAURICE SYDNEY LIPWORTH, B.Com., LL.B.,
7 Old Park Lane, London W1Y 3LJ
(Legal and Property Director).
TIMOTHY ASHLEY PETER WALKER,
7 Old Park Lane, London W1Y 3LJ
(Consultant).
RAYMOND ALAN WHEELER,
41 Bishopsgate, London EC2P 2AA
(a Director of Hambros Bank Limited).
MICHAEL SUMNER WILSON,
7 Old Park Lane, London W1Y 3LJ
(Broker Director).

Offer for Sale Statistics

Issued Share Capital	£5,000,000 in 20,000,000 Ordinary Shares of 25p each
Offer for Sale price	235p per Share
Total value of issued share capital at Offer for Sale price	£47,000,000
Forecast dividends per Share, net of related tax credit, for the year ending 31st December, 1978 ..	13.75p
Comprising:	
interim dividend payable in about December, 1978	4.50p
final dividend payable in about July, 1977	9.25p
Gross equivalent, at current tax rate, of forecast dividends per Share	21.15p
Yield at Offer for Sale price on the basis of gross equivalent of forecast dividends per Share ..	9.00 per cent.

Bankers

LLOYDS BANK LIMITED,
82 Regent Street, Swindon SN1 1JZ
NATIONAL WESTMINSTER BANK LIMITED
30 North Audley Street, London W1Y 2HJ
HAMBROS BANK LIMITED,
41 Bishopsgate, London EC2P 2AA.

Receiving Bankers to the Offer for Sale

LLOYDS BANK LIMITED,
Issue Department, P.O. Box 287,
61 Gracechurch Street, London EC3P 3DI

Brokers

ROWE & PITMAN, HURST-BROWN,
City-Gate House, 39-45 Finsbury Square
London EC2A 1JA and The Stock Exchange
W. GREENWELL & CO.,
Bow Bells House, Broad Street, London EC4A
and The Stock Exchange.

Solicitors

NORTON, ROSE, BOTTERELL & ROCHE
Kempson House, Camomile Street, London EC3

Auditors and Reporting Accountants

PEAT, MARWICK, MITCHELL & CO.,
1 Puddle Dock, Blackfriars, London EC4V 3
Chartered Accountants.

Reporting Actuaries

BACON & WOODROW,
Empire House, St. Martin's-le-Grand, London EC
Consulting Actuaries.

Secretary and Registered Office

JOEL GOODMAN JOFFE, B.Com., LL.B.
51 Bishopsgate, London EC2N 3AS.

Registrars and Transfer Office

LLOYDS BANK LIMITED,
Registrar's Department, Goring-by-Sea,
Worthing, West Sussex BN12 6DA.

Definitions.—In this Offer for Sale: "the Company" means Hambro Life Assurance Limited; "the Group" means the Company and its subsidiaries; "HPAL" means Hambro Provident Assurance Limited; "the Life Fund" means the long-term assurance fund of the Company; "Hambros Bank" means Hambros Bank Limited; "the D.O.T." means the Department of Trade. The terms "actuarial reserve" and "actuarial surplus" are explained under "Surpluses and Profits" below.

Particulars of the Group

The following information relating to the Group has been provided to Hambros Bank by the Directors of the Company:—

History.—The Company (formerly known as Sapphire Assurance Company Limited) was incorporated in 1865. A small number of Sapphire policies, mostly endowment assurance policies to repay secured mortgage loans, are still in force but are now insignificant in relation to the Group's business as a whole.

In December, 1970 control of the Company was acquired by Hambros Limited, the holding company of Hambros Bank, and by the Company's new management, which had had previous experience of life assurance as mentioned in "Directors, Management, Staff and Administration" below. Shortly thereafter the Company's name was changed to Hambro Life Assurance Limited and further capital was subscribed.

Business

Principal Types of Policy.—The intention behind the change of control was to develop the Company as a life assurance company concentrating primarily on unit-linked assurance business and accordingly the principal types of policy offered by the Company are unit-linked. The range includes regular (annual or monthly) premium whole life and endowment policies, single premium bonds, occupational pension schemes for individuals and small groups and retirement annuity contracts for the self-employed and others not in pension schemes. The Company maintains separate Equity, Property, Fixed Interest and Managed Funds ("Unit Funds") for the purpose of calculating policyholders' benefits. These Unit Funds are notionally divided into Units, representing proportionate shares of the respective funds, and policyholders' benefits are calculated by direct reference to the values of the relevant Units, the types of which are in general specified in the policy or selected by the policyholder. The Company also offers non unit-linked assurance, comprising annuity contracts, term assurance and without-profits endowment assurance. There are no with-profits policies.

The Company effects normal reinsurance arrangements in respect of the larger mortality risks (currently those in excess of £50,000).

Basic Guidelines.—The new management adopted certain guidelines which have made the Company significantly different from a conventional life assurance company.

The basic guideline was that possible conflicts of interest between policyholders and shareholders and between successive generations of policyholders could be reduced by concentrating on unit-linked policies. Under unit-linked policies a predetermined and contractually specified proportion of the premium is allocated to Units in the appropriate Unit Funds. The Company retains the balance of the premium income and receives periodical management charges, out of which it provides for its expenses and the mortality cost, the remainder being for the benefit of shareholders. Since there are no with-profits policyholders there is no division of profits as such between policyholders and shareholders.

Conventional life assurance policies contain obligations to pay fixed or minimum monetary amounts at future dates. These obligations effectively demand a minimum level of investment performance and in practice require a life office to invest, for long-term matching purposes, a substantial proportion of its funds in fixed interest investments. The Directors consider that in a world of continuing inflation such monetary guarantees are of limited value to policyholders and may actually be detrimental to their interests by reason of the restrictions which they effectively impose on the investment of funds. The Company's unit-linked policies therefore generally avoid guarantees of a kind which could inhibit the investment management of the Unit Funds. This has the incidental result that the flow of actuarial surplus attributable to shareholders is not materially affected by a need to build up significant reserves to deal with possible fluctuations in the values of the Unit Funds.

The inclusion of these guarantees in conventional policies is a major factor in the actuarial reserves which have to be set up and this is the main element of the significant actuarial loss (or "strain") which a conventional life office tends to suffer during the early years of a regular premium policy. The absence of these guarantees significantly reduces the

strain suffered by the Company on new policies and results in actuarial surplus emerging earlier than would otherwise be the case.

Year-by-Year Sales Development.—The Company's main objective has been to build up its regular premium inflow (referred to below as annual premium business) for two reasons. First, annual premium policies represent the most dependable type of new business because they are in regular demand. Secondly, the renewal premiums provide a continuing and cumulative contribution towards covering expenses and to actuarial surplus. At the same time the Directors have successfully taken advantage of appropriate opportunities to market single premium policies, although their sales tend to fluctuate sharply.

The following table analyses the new business written by the Company and the premiums received in the five years ended 31st December, 1975:—

Year ended 31st December	NEW BUSINESS					PREMIUMS RECEIVED (net of reinsurance)	
	New Annual Premiums £m	Single Premiums £m	Guaranteed Income Bonds £m	Other Single Premiums £m	% Percentage Annual Premium Business	Total Annual Premiums £m	Total of all Premiums £m
1971	1.8	23.7	—	—	52%	1.1	26.8
1972	5.5	103.3	0.4	—	42%	6.3	110.0
1973	8.0	52.5	13.9	—	50%	13.6	121.0
1974	11.7	30.4	23.1	2.6	79%	22.1	75.2
1975	19.0	16.9	—	7.6	91%	39.3	64.3

Notes:—

- The above table excludes HPAL.
- "Percentage Annual Premium Business" means the estimated percentage of the Company's total new business, measured by initial commissions payable on that business, represented by annual premium business. The Company uses initial commissions as a measure of the relative importance of different classes of business because, broadly speaking, the overhead expense and profit margins built into the various policies are proportionate to the initial commissions payable.
- Gross reinsurance premiums of £391,000 were paid in the year ended 31st December, 1975.
- In accordance with the procedure adopted at 31st December, 1975, new annual premiums for 1976 and 1977 have been retained to include certain new annual premiums in the year when applications were received, although the policies were not formally issued during those years.

During 1972 and 1973, although the Company enjoyed strong growth in new annual premiums, the overall sales results were dominated by large sales of single premium bonds, which were in part the result of the abnormally high liquidity in the economy at the time. These sales came at a favourable stage in the Company's financial development, since they produced sufficient actuarial surplus to offset strain on the annual premium business and to leave actuarial surpluses in the Life Fund.

1974, which was a year of crisis for the United Kingdom economy and for the investment and financial markets generally, saw a distinct change in the pattern of business. Annual premium business continued to expand at a satisfactory rate, but there was a sharp fall in sales of single premium bonds, which was only partly compensated for by an increase in the (less profitable) guaranteed income bond business, which is described later. Overall, single premium business, which had represented 50 per cent. of total new business in 1973 (measured by initial commissions), fell to 25 per cent. of new business in 1974.

1975 saw a sharp increase in new annual premiums, with a further decrease in single premiums, so that (measured by initial commissions) single premiums accounted for only 9 per cent. of total new business.

As shown in the table above, the most significant feature of sales development has been the strong growth year by year in new annual premium business.

Guaranteed Income Bonds.—Apart from a small issue in November and December, 1972, the Company kept out of the Guaranteed Income Bond market during most of the period in which such bonds were being widely sold because the Directors considered that, on the basis on which they were being offered, the guaranteed early surrender values made it difficult to invest in assets which matched both the maturity and the early surrender obligations.

However, in October, 1973 the Company broke new ground by offering six-year Guaranteed Income Bonds under which the early surrender values were linked to the market value of gilt-edged securities of matching term. This made it possible for the Company to insulate itself from any investment risk, whether bondholders held their bonds to maturity or encashed them early. Some £23m of single premiums were received in respect of this class of Bond, of which only a small proportion has been surrendered to date.

In February and March, 1974 the Company also offered two-year Guaranteed Bonds on terms that precluded early surrender. Some £14m was received in respect of premium Bonds of this class and the money was invested in matching two-year loans. All Bonds of this class have now been redeemed.

Sources of Business.—The Company's policies are sold through two main sources, and insurance brokers.

The Company's policy is to grant agencies only to persons or firms who are in the insurance business. This avoids the expense of maintaining a large force of service part-time agents (who normally receive full commissions) and at the same time to ensure that applicants for policies have received competent advice. A varying minor, proportion of the business has come from newspaper advertising of its policies.

The sales force, which is remunerated on a commission basis, operated a 1976 from 74 branch offices throughout the United Kingdom and consisted of 121 branch management (who are employees of the Company) and some 1,400 Sales Associates. The Sales Associates are independent contractors and not employees of the Company. In general they do not place with any other office life assurance business of the Company. The percentage of the Company's total new business accrues from various sources has varied from year to year but 65 per cent. of total business for 1975 and 63 per cent. of business for the first six months of 1976 (in each case measured by initial commissions) was produced by the sales force.

The Broker Department, operating from premises in 9 cities, offers a service of 2,000 insurance brokers throughout the United Kingdom. It has a sales staff of 100 concentrating on full-time brokers and through the use of computer terminals it is able to provide a highly efficient service.

In February, 1978 the Company became a member of the Life Offices Association with effect from 1st January, 1977 the Company will be fully bound by the agreements of that Association in respect of business received from insurers. The Directors believe that this will not adversely affect the amount of business the Company can expect to receive.

Investments.—All the Company's investments are available to support its liabilities. A substantial proportion of these investments is allocated to the Unit Funds, the values do not materially affect shareholders' interests, apart from the level of management charges received by the Company.

The investments not allocated to the Unit Funds are held to meet liability unit-linked policies or represent the actuarial surplus retained in the Life Fund and interests. Similar considerations apply to HPAL, which has virtually no unit-linked business.

The Group's investments at 31st December, 1975, as shown by the A Report were as follows:—

Type of Investment	Total £000	Investments allocated to Unit Funds £000	Other £000
Fixed interest and deposits	149,719	76,189	
Quoted equities and authorised unit trusts	122,119	122,115	
Freehold and leasehold land and property	51,238	48,802	
	323,076	247,106	

Investment Management.—A Committee drawn from the full-time Directors is responsible for the investment of the Company's funds. It acts on the advice of investment panels, one in respect of the Managed and Equity Unit Funds and the other of the Property Unit Funds. The Managed and Equity Funds Panel consists of Mr. Hill-Wood (a Director of the Allied Hambro Unit Trust Group), Mr. Hill-Wood (a Director of the Company responsible for its investment department) and Mr. C. G. Morley (Investment Director as well as Mr. Weinberg and Mr. Lipworth. The Property Panel, consisting of Mr. (Partner, Fuller, Horsey, Sons & Cassell, Surveyors and Valuers), Mr. J. N. C. trustee of the Grosvenor Estate) and Mr. Morley, works closely in conjunction with the Property Director, and with Berkeley Hambro Property Company, an associated company of Hambros Limited, which is retained as property investor and adviser. The detailed investment management of these Funds is described in

1975/76

NOTES—

1. BASIS OF CONSOLIDATION

The consolidated accounts incorporate accounts of all subsidiaries made up to 31st December in each year. Goodwill represents the excess of cost of the share, less amount written off, over the book value of net tangible assets at the date of acquisition of Hambro Provident Assurance Limited ("the life assurance subsidiary"). Results of companies acquired are incorporated in the accounts from the date of their acquisition.

2. ACCOUNTING POLICIES

The principal accounting policies of the Group which have been applied consistently in the foregoing summaries throughout the years under review are—

(i) Profit and loss account

The Company's practice is to prepare an actuarial valuation annually. The directors, with the advice of the Actuary, determine the proportion of the actuarial surplus to be transferred net of tax to profit and loss account.

(ii) Premiums

Premiums net of reinsurance in the consolidated life fund include amounts received in respect of applications for certain policies which had not been formally accepted by the Company; the Company's liability under the conditions of these policies is calculated from the date the Company receives the premium but does not received are not included in the accounts.

(iii) Valuation of investments

Quoted equities and convertible loan stocks of the Company are valued at the latest offered dealing quotation.

The unit trust holdings of the Company are managed by Allied Investors Trusts Limited and by Hambro Unit Trust Managers Limited, both of which are fellow subsidiaries of the Company. An annual charge is paid by the Company for the management of the funds invested and special arrangements have been made for the Company to invest in the unit trusts free of the manager's initial and annual charges (excluding trustees' fees). Holdings are valued at the price at which the Company would have been able to purchase the units at the commencement of dealing immediately after the year-end. The unit trusts' holdings of the life assurance subsidiary are valued at bid price.

British Government securities are valued at middle market quotation at the year-end. Quoted securities of the life assurance subsidiary are valued at middle market quotation. Unquoted securities of the life assurance subsidiary are stated at the valuation of that company's directors.

Local authority loans are stated at cost.

Freehold and leasehold properties are valued at the open market value by independent valuers. The valuations at 31st December, 1975, were carried out by Jones, Lang, Wootton.

Mortgages are stated at the directors' estimate of assignable value.

Unsecured loans are stated at cost, less amounts written off.

Interest-bearing deposits are stated at market value.

Interest-bearing deposits are stated at cost.

(iv) Subsidiary companies

Shares in subsidiary companies are valued at cost, less amount written off at date of acquisition, adjusted for the increase or decrease in their underlying net assets since the date of acquisition.

(v) Claims

Only claims notified by 31st December in each year are included in the accounts.

(vi) Rates of exchange

Assets and liabilities in foreign currencies, all of which relate to the Hambro Property Fund (one of the Company's unit trusts), have been converted at the rates of exchange ruling at the balance sheet date. Surpluses and deficits arising on conversion are included in the life fund.

Investment income and expenses of management income from all investments is credited to the life fund and is grossed up to include the relevant tax credits or income tax deducted at source. All expenses of management are charged in the life fund.

(vii) Agency balances

Agency balances include amounts advanced to agents by way of financing loans, which are recoverable from commissions still to be credited to the agents in respect of existing and future business. Provisions have been made against estimated irrecoverable amounts.

(viii) Taxation

The Company is liable to United Kingdom corporation tax on the basis applicable to a life assurance company and provides for taxation in the life fund.

Provision is made for deferred taxation at the relevant rates ruling at the balance sheet date to allow for the effect of timing differences between the treatment for tax purposes and accounts purposes of income and expenditure and, where appropriate, for taxation which would arise if the investments were

disposed of at their balance sheet values at the year-end. For this purpose, no account is taken of unrealised appreciation or depreciation of investments, the disposal of which would give rise only to taxation which could be treated as a deduction from policyholders' funds in accordance with the relevant policy provisions, and for which appropriate allowance is made by the Actuary in his valuation of the liabilities of the life fund.

Advance Corporation Tax estimated to be recoverable is deducted from the deferred tax account.

3. PROFIT AND LOSS ACCOUNT

Dividends have been paid as follows—

	1974	1975	1976
On Preference Shares	£1	50	51
On Ordinary Shares	£1	50	51
	1,047	1,047	1,047

*After taking into account waivers totalling £85,000 by certain of the directors.

No dividends were paid in respect of any period prior to 1974.

4. BALANCE SHEETS

(i) Interest-bearing deposits: Interest-bearing deposits at 31st December, 1975 include the following amounts deposited with two fellow subsidiaries, Hambro Bank Limited and Hambro (Guernsey) Limited, which act as bankers to the Company and certain subsidiaries.

	1974	1975	1976
The Group	£1,699	£1,699	£1,699
The Company	£1,699	£1,699	£1,699

(ii) Subsidiary companies

The investments in subsidiaries, all of which are wholly owned, at 31st December, 1975 are as follows—

	1974	1975	1976
Cost of shares in subsidiary companies, less amounts written off (Note 2(vii))	£218	£218	£218
Amounts due from subsidiaries	3,395	3,395	3,395
	3,613	3,613	3,613

(iii) Debtors

Debtors at 31st December, 1975 include loans of £24,000 made to trustees to enable them to purchase shares in the Company on behalf of employees in accordance with the terms of the Company's Employee Share Incentive Scheme and £242,000 due in respect of French value added tax not repayable within twelve months relating to Continental properties acquired on behalf of the Hambro Property Fund.

(iv) Bank loans from fellow subsidiary

Bank loans from fellow subsidiary, Hambro Bank Limited, which include accrued interest, are repayable at varying dates up to January, 1979, and are used to finance the purchase of Continental properties acquired on behalf of the Hambro Property Fund.

(v) Share capital

At 31st December, 1975—

	1974	1975	1976
800,000 8 per cent, (now 5.5 per cent, plus tax credit) Redeemable Non-Cumulative Preference Shares of £1 each	£800,000	£800,000	£800,000
1,000,000 Ordinary Shares of 10p each	£100,000	£100,000	£100,000
	£900,000	£900,000	£900,000
Issued and fully paid—			
300,000 Preference Shares of £1 each	£300,000	£300,000	£300,000
896,300 Ordinary Shares of 10p each	£89,630	£89,630	£89,630
	£389,630	£389,630	£389,630

(vi) HL owns directly or indirectly 7,062,234 Ordinary Shares of 25p each and 618,000 8 per cent, (now 5.5 per cent, plus tax credit) Redeemable Non-Cumulative Preference Shares of £1 each.

H&G owns directly 205,400 Ordinary Shares of 25p each of HL (representing 1.24 per cent, of HL's issued share capital).

(vii) The following companies (none of which will be applying for any shares under this Offer for Sale) are interested in and are selling Ordinary Shares of 25p each of the Company as follows—

Company	Shares being sold under Offer for Sale	Shareholding immediately following Offer for Sale
HL	38,000	144,000
H&G	18,000	84,000
HT	1,142,120	8,712,880

The above table does not reflect the shares being subscribed by Hambro Bank as mentioned in paragraph 3(i) above.

(viii) Hambro Investment Trust Limited, a company (which is managed by the directors or their families or families) is beneficially interested in 26,500 Shares of 25p each of the Company, which are held as follows—

(a) HT, which is wholly-owned subsidiary, holds 18,000 Shares of 25p each of the Company; H&G, HT and HTMS share certain pension funds, investment trusts (apart from Hambro Investment Trust Limited), trusts and private clients on behalf of some of which they have discretionary dealing powers and which own 8,500 Shares of 25p each of the Company; and

(b) HTMS, HT and HTMS share certain pension funds, investment trusts (apart from Hambro Investment Trust Limited), trusts and private clients on behalf of some of which they have discretionary dealing powers and which own 8,500 Shares of 25p each of the Company as trustees for members of the Hambro family.

(ix) Certain companies in the Hambro Group (including H & G and MIT) and MIT will be participating in the sale of the Company under the Offer for Sale and will be receiving normal sub-underwriting commissions.

(x) The numbers of Ordinary Shares of 25p each of the Company being sold by the Unit Fund, together with the numbers of Ordinary Shares of 25p each of the Company being sold by the Hambro Group, are as follows—

(i) HTMS, HT and HTMS share certain pension funds, investment trusts (apart from Hambro Investment Trust Limited), trusts and private clients on behalf of some of which they have discretionary dealing powers and which own 8,500 Shares of 25p each of the Company; and

(ii) HTMS, HT and HTMS share certain pension funds, investment trusts (apart from Hambro Investment Trust Limited), trusts and private clients on behalf of some of which they have discretionary dealing powers and which own 8,500 Shares of 25p each of the Company as trustees for members of the Hambro family.

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Statutory & General Information

(a) The Company

The Company was incorporated in England as a private company on 30th November, 1965 under the name of Sapphire Assurance Company Limited and on 7th January, 1971 changed its name to the present name.

(b) On 31st July, 1976, 3,700 Ordinary Shares of 10p each were issued for cash at par to the Trustees of the Share Incentive Scheme mentioned below.

(c) Immediately prior to 18th July, 1976 the authorised share capital of the Company was £1,000,000 divided into 10,000,000 shares of 10p each, plus (or minus) Redeemable Non-Cumulative Preference Shares of £1 each and 1,000,000 Ordinary Shares of 10p each, of which all such Preference Shares and 1,000,000 of such Ordinary Shares had been issued and were in issue.

(d) On 18th July, 1976, conditionally on the issue of the Stock Exchange listing of the Company, the Company issued 1,000,000 Ordinary Shares of 10p each for cash at par to the holders of the Company's shares issued or to be issued, the Company—

(i) increased its authorised share capital to £8,000,000 by the creation of 19,900,000 Ordinary Shares of 25p each;

(ii) consolidated every 5 Ordinary Shares of 10p each into one Ordinary Share of 50p and sub-divided each such Share of 50p into 2 Ordinary Shares of 25p each;

(iii) altered its Memorandum of Association with regard to its objects;

(iv) converted into a public company and adopted new Articles of Association;

(v) gave notice to, and received acceptance of short notice from, Hambro Limited as the holder of the 900,000 8 per cent, (now 5.5 per cent, plus tax credit) Redeemable Non-Cumulative Preference Shares of £1 each (reduced to 44,445 Shares at par of the proceeds of a fresh issue of new Ordinary Shares);

(vi) divided the £200,000 of share capital deriving from the above-mentioned redemption of Preference Shares into 3,600,000 Ordinary Shares of 25p each;

(vii) issued 44,445 Ordinary Shares of 25p each to Hambro Bank and for an aggregate cash subscription of £4,700,000.

(viii) The same date, the Company's directors resolved to proceed with the above-mentioned subscription by Hambro Bank, the Company allotted credited as fully paid—

(i) to the holders of Ordinary Shares on the register at the close of business on 14th July, 1976 a total of 17,800,000 Ordinary Shares of 25p each by way of capitalisation of the share premium account arising on such subscription; and

(ii) to Hambro Bank, in respect of the 44,445 Ordinary Shares subscribed as mentioned in paragraph 1 (vii) above, 1,955,555 Ordinary Shares of 25p each by way of capitalisation of share premium account and profit and loss account.

[illegible][illegible]

